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Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Ministers Hold Meeting

LD2810181190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The 13th extraordinary session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministerial council began in Riyadh this evening [28 October] at the GCC Secretariat General Headquarters. The meeting began with a Koran recitation.

His excellency, the minister of state for foreign affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Yusuf bin-al-Alawai bin-'Abdallah, delivered a speech in which he pointed out that this meeting comes at a time when the Iraqi aggression continues on the fraternal State of Kuwait, a matter which calls for the continuation of consultations among the GCC member-states. He added that these meetings are necessary to outline the joint effort by the Gulf countries to strengthen the international ranks for confronting this aggression. He reaffirmed that any activity or tendency to solve the crisis resulting from the Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait should be committed to the UN Security Council resolutions which express international unanimity. He said that it is not possible to accept any means for solving the current crisis except by adhering to the basic principles which include the total withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the State of Kuwait unconditionally and the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait. Then the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs declared the beginning of the closed session.

Session Ends; USSR Lauded

LD2910000190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Oct (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers, this evening ended the first meeeting of their 13th emergency ministerial council session at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh this evening.

His Excellency Yusuf al-'Alawi Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, said in a press statement after the session that the council examined the recent contacts and the stands taken by the states on this matter. He indicated that the international political stand on the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait was a firm stand which gave a serious boost to the Security Council resolutions. He also stressed that there was no change in the international stand despite the political efforts being exerted at the moment, and added in this respect: We believe that these efforts give stronger support to the resolutions of the Security Council.

Mr. Yusuf al-'Alawi Abdallah also referred to the role of the Soviet Union at this stage, describing it as important and major, adding: We are convinced that the stand of the Soviet Union supports the Security Council resolutions, and its contacts stem from these resolutions.

Closed Session Held

LD2910083190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers have resumed the meetings of their 13th extraordinary GCC Council session by holding a closed session at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh.

Ministers Arrive for Lebanon Problem Talks

LD2510202290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Algerian minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Jeddah this evening to participate in the meeting of foreign ministers of the member countries of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on resolving the Lebanese problem. They were met at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the ambassadors of Morocco and of Algeria to the kingdom, and other officials.

Dr. Abdellatif Filali stressed that the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on resolving the Lebanese crisis stands by the Lebanese legitimacy and supports all measures taken by the Lebanese Government to extend the state's authority over all Lebanese territories. He said that he considers the extending of Lebanese authority over all Lebanese territories to be the beginning of an era of reconstruction and of creating a fraternal atmosphere in which all Lebanese could coexist. In a press statement made today after his arrival in Jeddah, he expressed his satisfaction at the developments in Lebanon, and said that the situation there is improving. He stressed the need to continue to tackle the pending problems until calm returns to Lebanon, and affirmed the tripartite committee's support for this.

Tripartite Committee Meets

LD2610191190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of the member countries of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee in charge of finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis held a meeting today at the conferences palace in Jeddah. It was attended by His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al- Faysal, Saudi foreign minister; the foreign affairs and cooperation minister of Morocco, His Excellency Dr. Abdellatif Filali; the Algerian foreign minister, His Excellency Ahmed Ghazali; and the special envoy of the committee, Lakhdar Brahimi. The meeting discussed the latest developments in Lebanon, the stages accomplished by the Lebanese legitimacy in spreading its authority throughout Lebanese soil, and the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed optimism vis-a-vis the conditions in Lebanon, and stressed the importance of the efforts being exerted by the committee. His Royal Highness, in a statement to MAP, transmitted today, said that the steady implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and the important stage of establishing security in Lebanon will start now that the political reforms have been approved and are operative. His royal highness stressed that the steps to spread the state authority throughout Lebanese territory demands the convergence of efforts. He said that the first of those efforts is Lebanese reconciliation, which will allow the crossing of this critical and sensitive stage relative to Lebanon. His royal Highness explained that this stage also has its firm foundations, which are in the al-Ta'if agreement.

Sends Envoy to Paris

LD2610193290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpts] After the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon activities were frozen by the Gulf crisis, the new military and political events in Lebanon have reactivated its movements.

The committee met today in Jeddah and decided to send an envoy to Paris next week to discuss a solution of the problem concerning General Michael 'Awn. Sources close to the committee said that the head of Algerian diplomacy, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, will play the role, and will try to ease the tension between Paris and Beirut, resulting from the French Government's refusal to hand General 'Awn over to Lebanese authorities. [passage omitted]

The Arab Tripartite Committee, which includes the foreign ministers of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, will continue its work this evening, looking for a new plan of action to allow the spread of legitimacy throughout Lebanese soil. The source did not give details of this plan of action.

It is noteworthy that the committee's envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, participated in part of the meetings before leaving Jeddah for Damascus and Beirut.

Committee Issues Communique

LD2710180390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1513 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 27 Oct (SPA)—The foreign ministers of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee authorized to solve the Lebanese crisis today issued the following communique at the end of their meeting in Jeddah, which took place over the past two days:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. On the directive of the leaders of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee, His Excellency Dr. Abdellatif Filali, the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Morocco; His Excellency Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the foreign minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, met in the city of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period 25-26 October. The meeting was attended by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the committee's envoy to Lebanon.

The foreign ministers studied the situation in Lebanon in the light of the developments that have taken place since their meeting in New York at the beginning of October. In light of the directives of the three leaders, the ministers made a comprehensive appraisal of the stages that have been carried out in the realization of the aims decided upon at the Casablanca summit for solving the Lebanese crisis—which were endorsed at the Baghdad summit held in May 1990—and with regard to the statements that have been issued by the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee, particularly the Jeddah statement issued on October 1989.

Within this framework, the ministers reaffirmed the resolve of the Tripartite Committee to proceed with the peace and concord march and implement the Ta'if Accord, and to continue its support of the Lebanese Government in implementing its tasks—especially in establishing the authority and sovereignty of the Lebanese state on all its territory, with its own force, and in implementing international resolutions stipulating the total removal of the Israeli occupation in preparing for te reconstruction of Lebanon, enabling it to resume its role within the Arab family and internationally.

Agreement has been reached on the preparation of a comprehensive report, to be submitted to the leaders of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee, on the outcome of this meeting, as well as the results of the contacts which the ministerial committee will be making in implementation of the task entrusted to it. Within this framework the committee will on Saturday, 27 October, visit the Syrian Arab Republic to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials to exchange views on the steps that should be taken at the present time to implement the Ta'if agreement and support the national concord march in Lebanon. Lakhdar Ibrahimi will be visiting Lebanon for the same purpose.

The ministers expressed their satisfaction with the steps that have so far been realized in implementing the statement issued by the Lebanese Government on 11 August 1990, which paved the way for the application of the clauses of the Ta'if agreement—particularly that these steps came after the endorsement by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies of the constitutional reforms.

On the other hand, the ministers expressed their deep regret and extreme sorrow over the human losses sustained during the implementation by the Lebanese Government of the contents of that statement, which could have been avoided had there been the response to the requirements of the said statement which everybody wished.

The ministers also denounced the excesses that took place after 13 October 1990—particularly the heinous crime of the assassination of Dany Chamoun and his family. The ministers expressed hope for a continuation and entrenchment of the calm that the Lebanese arena has witnessed during the past few days, which will restore to Lebanon its balance, and place it on the right path toward regaining its unity, independence, and sovereignty and realizing national concord, harmony, and fraternity among its sons. So that these aims are realized, and to apply the clauses of the national concord document, the ministers stressed that it requires concentrated effort, during the current stage, to bolster Lebanese legitimacy along with its security organs, as manifested in the Lebanese Army and the internal security force, which were able to regain their unity and capability—to bolster this unity and rebuild their ranks, in training, arming, and organization, in a manner that will enable them to perform their role in establishing the authority of the Lebanese state on all its territory, by its own force.

Proceeding from this, the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee renews and reaffirms its call to the fraternal Arab states to render the required assistance and support to the Lebanese Government, and to make available the requirements of the Lebanese Army and the internal security force in Lebanon.

On the other hand, the committee repeats its previous call to the fraternal Arab states and the international community to render urgent economic assistance to support the fraternal Lebanese people in confronting the grave consequences and damage they sustained as a result of the painful events in the Gulf, which took place following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The ministers also discussed the steps that have been taken in the establishment of an international fund to help Lebanon. They have expressed their optimism regarding the positive stances expressed by many Arab and international sides in their reaction to the establishment of this fund, following the message addressed by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in the name of the leaders of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee, to the leaders of the states concerned, containing an invitation to them to participate in the fund. The ministers reaffirmed also their resolve to continue the work, and constantly follow it up, until this project is carried out, as soon as possible.

Whereas it became apparent from the contacts that the committee made with the Arab and international sides that the financial systems and procedures that are in practice preventing the holding of the constituent meeting of the fund during the remainder of this year, it was agreed to convene the said meeting during the first quarter of next year, 1991.

Saudi Arabia Urges Arab League Relocation

PM2610150990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Rifqi al-Tayyib report: "Ten Arab Capitals Urge Quick Transfer of League Headquarters to Cairo"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An informed diplomatic source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Saudi Arabia yesterday submitted an urgent memorandum to As'ad al-As'ad, acting Arab League secretary general, in reply to the memorandum submitted by Algeria on behalf of the Arab Maghreb Union states in which it proposed that all measures concerning the transfer of the League's headquarters from Tunis to Cairo be postponed until the Arab League Council convenes within the framework of its 94th session.

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that the Saudi memorandum pointed out that the Arab League's return to Cairo was settled by Arab League Council Resolution No. 5042, adopted at its extraordinary session held in Cairo on 10 September 1990. And the legitimacy of that decision admits no doubt, as it is in line with the Arab League charter and regulations. And while it believes in the importance of providing a solid ground to safeguard and strengthen Arab solidarity and unity of ranks, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sees it as important in these difficult and very delicate circumstances that there be full commitment to the Arab League Council's resolutions and the League's charter and regulations.

The source added: Saudi Arabia believes that referring that subject to the Arab League Council again will not help to unite Arab ranks and safeguard the Arab League. On the contrary, it could open a door to futile discussions that could reflect negatively on the common Arab action march. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Tenes Official Interviewed on Demonstrations

LD2610143490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The crisis in the district of Tenes, following the recent events which were characterized by clamorous demonstrations, has not ended yet. After the radio interview yesterday with the governor of the chief province, we received a request from the municipal's people's council of Tenes city to reply to the accusation addressed by the governor to the elected members: being out of touch and ignorant of the facts, as he put it. Thus we allow the people's municipal council to state its attitude to the events and clarify some of the circumstances surrounding the events. Our Colleague Zineddine Bouhafs telephoned Hanifi Djilali, first deputy chairman of the municipal people's committee, and held with him a dialogue at the start of which he replied to the governor's accusation of being out of touch and ignorant of the facts:

[Begin recording] [Djilali] This is not true; it is an attempt to cover up their shortcomings by attributing matters to the municipality. This is untrue. Believe me, brother, the youths had no intention of throwing a single stone had they not been provoked. First, some sides had mobilized them and then they were provoked by the rapid deployment forces.

[Bouhafs] Who are these forces, brother? Do you have information on them?

[Djilali] They are political societies. Brother, I do not hide anything from you. The people arrested some of those who were implanted among them and took them to the police superintendent and the commander of the gendarmerie and told them: these people are inciting us to break things and set them on fire. But the security forces did nothing. They are from known parties: parties which are facing their demise and others which were stillborn. We also regret very much what we heard on the radio from the governor, to the effect that the events took place because of a kilogram of flour. Is it reasonable that a youth will destroy half of his city for the sake of his stomach? This youth only wanted to express to the district officials, above all, his concerns and found no one to hear him. [passage omitted] [end recording]

British Official Visits Amid 'Tense' Relations

LD2710103590 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The British Foreign Office Secretary [William Waldegrave] yesterday began a three-day visit to Algiers. On his schedule are talks with Algerian officials and also the opening, with the minister of mines and energy, of a seminar on gas and oil technology. This visit is taking place at a time when relations between Algeria and Great Britain are somewhat tense. It is already difficult for Algerians to obtain an entry visa from the British consular services in Algiers. As if this were not enough, Algerian citizens visiting Great Britain are subject to long interrogations sometimes lasting up to four hours; their eventual deportation is even mentioned on the passport. But from now on reciprocity will be applied. The Algerian authorities have decided to apply similar formalities to British citizens visiting Algeria.

Egypt

Primakov Returns to Cairo After Damascus Visit

To Meet Mubarak

NC2610112790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and President Mikhail Gorbachev's personal envoy, arrived in Cairo today on a one-day visit to Egypt as part of his tour of a number of Arab countries. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, stated that President Husni Mubarak will receive Primakov this afternoon.

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2610144890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1402 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Official talks between Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and President Mikhail Gorbachev's personal envoy, began at 1230 today. They were attended by Ambassador Mahmud Fathi, director of the Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, director of Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's political adviser's office; and Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Polyakov.

The 90-minute meeting, which ended this afternoon, touched on current developments in the Gulf region and the outcome of Primakov's contacts with the parties involved in the crisis.

Following the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that he and Mr. Primakov had discussed the latter's mission. He noted that he will attend the meeting that will be held this evening between President Mubarak and the Soviet envoy.

On whether the Soviet envoy will undertake mediation efforts between Iraq and Arab countries, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he does not think that the Soviet envoy will undertake any mediation between Arab states and President Saddam Husayn. He noted, however, that they support anyone who tries to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and avert war. He said: We are all trying to do that.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added: It would be better if we could avoid war. Let us study the prospects for that, he said.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2610160890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received at the Presidential Office this evening Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Cairo. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and the Soviet ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

'Peaceful Solution' Supported

JN2710185590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] Informed Egyptian sources told our radio that President Mubarak agrees with Soviet ideas about a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis if a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is guaranteed. This came during President Mubarak's meeting with Soviet envoy Primakov last night.

The sources said that Mubarak informed the Soviet envoy that Egypt and the Gulf states prefer a political solution to a military solution and asked Primakov to inform Iraq of Egypt's readiness to make every effort to solve the issue peacefully if Iraq agrees to withdraw from Kuwait. Mubarak expressed Egypt's readiness to support all Iraqi economic demands in case such a solution is reached.

Primakov assured the Egyptian president that the Iraqi position might carry positive developments over the next few days, adding that there are certain special issues in Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations that would be better settled within the Arab family.

Comments on Talks With Mubarak

NC2610180390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1704 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Soviet Presidium and personal envoy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said after an approximately one-hour meeting with President Mubarak this evening that his country's position regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait could be summarized as the need for the situation in the Gulf to return to the way it was before 2 August. Primakov added that we must not reward anyone for what he has done, and stressed once again that things must return to the way they were before 2 August.

Primakov added that proceeding from this position, the Soviet Union has voted in favor of all the Security Council resolutions and is exerting utmost efforts to implement these resolutions. Primakov stressed the need to seize all available opportunities to avoid military action. He added: President Gorbachev assigned me the task of meeting with various heads of state while on this tour. He described his meeting with President Mubarak today, as well as the views they exchanged during the meeting, as extremely important.

He added that undoubtedly President Mubarak is eager to see justice prevail in the Gulf region and in the world in general. He is also eager to avoid the military option, and our positions on the crisis are completely identical concerning this important point, he added.

Primakov pointed out that he cannot divulge any more details about his talks, but he promised that if everything proceeds well in a short period of time, he will meet with journalists in Cairo to discuss all the details with them.

Asked if his statement hints at a change in his views regarding the crisis and the possibility of resolving it peacefully, Primakov said: I am still convinced that we can completely change the situation without having to resort to the military option. I have previously said that I am cautiously optimistic, and I have not yet lost my sense of optimism.

In response to another question about the time factor and its effect on this problem, Primakov said: The time factor truly puts a great amount of pressure on us.

Primakov was then asked whether President Saddam Husayn will change his position, considering that he had met with him earlier. The Soviet envoy said: How can I tell before I meet with him and complete my mission? He added: My meeting with President Saddam was held three weeks ago.

Asked if the Soviet Union supports the convening of an international conference to resolve the problems in the region, Primakov said: The Soviet Union agrees to holding this conference without directly linking these problems.

Ends Visit, Leaves for Baghdad

NC2710144590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov and his accompanying delegation left Cairo for Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a one-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Soviet envoy held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the current Gulf crisis. Primakov has had similar talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Soviet envoy was seen off at the airport by Muhammad 'Afifi, Foreign Ministry Protocol Department official, and the staff members of the Soviet Embassy in Cairo.

Italian Foreign Minister Makes One-Day Visit

Arrives, Makes Statement

NC2610182690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1736 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis arrived in Cairo this evening heading a delegation on a one-day visit to Egypt. He will meet with President Mubarak. Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Yusuf Shararah and Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, received him at the airport.

In an arrival statement, the Italian minister said the purpose of his visit is to learn about Egypt's views on the Gulf crisis on the eve of the European summit in Rome, which will be held on 27 October. He added that this problem will top the summit's agenda. De Michelis added: We are also studying all the initiatives for resolving the Gulf crisis, including the Soviet initiative undertaken by Mr. Primakov, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy to the region.

He noted that there is agreement between the European and international positions. He added: We want to find a solution within the framework of the UN resolutions calling for respecting international legitimacy and restoring the legitimate rights of the State of Kuwait.

He said there is interest in finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, and added: We are concerned about the fate of our citizens' being held as hostages in Iraq. He noted that France is working within the EC, but he rejected any partial solution to the Gulf crisis. He added: President Saddam Husayn must implement the Security Council resolutions.

De Michelis pointed out that there is cooperation among the various parties concerned with the Gulf crisis, and said this will become clear during the European summit in Rome tomorrow.

Answering a question on Israel's refusal to receive the UN fact-finding team on the al-Aqsa Mosque's massacre, the Italian foreign minister said: This is completely unacceptable. He added: The UN is the sole representative of the will of the international community, and everyone is required to be committed to its resolutions.

Regarding the economic damage incurred in the region as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he said: Italy is looking for ways to assist the Egyptian economy, and we have already extended a loan to the Egyptian Government. He added: We believe that financial assistance and support will not be enough unless we find a radical solution to the debt problem.

Concluding, the Italian foreign minister described the relations between Italy and Egypt as good and said that the two countries are working to promote them.

Meets Mubarak, 'Abd-al-Majid

AU2710152590 Rome ANSA in English 1023 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] (ANSA) Cairo, October 27— On the eve of the European summit which opens today in Rome, Italy and Egypt made it known that they consider still valid the principle that Iraqi troops must withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally. This was the [words indistinct] here last night between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis.

Mubarak had just returned the previous [word indistinct] from a four day mission that took him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman, where he conferred with heads of state on developments in the Gulf crisis and inspected Egyptian troops stationed in the region to help pull the teeth from the Iraqi threat.

Mubarak and De Michelis concurred in the view that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was isolated, and that Italy and Egypt are [words indistinct] compromising solutions to the crisis, according to a spokesman for the Italian Foreign Ministry (the Farnesina).

During their cordial conversation at the presidential palace at Heliopolis, on the northern outskirt of this capital, De Michellis outlined the Italian initiative on behalf of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The idea is to create rules and principles by which to settle conflicts, while guaranteeing sure, and inviolable borders to all states in the region, the Farnesina spokesman explained.

Immediately after his meeting with Mubarak, De Michelis conferred [word indistinct) colleague, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, on bilateral relations, especially in the field of economic cooperation.

There too, Cairo is urging action that would compensate for the blows the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait delivered to the Egyptian economy.

De Michelis recalled that the EC agreed on October 1st in New York, on an aid plan that would earmark 1.5 billion [currency not specified] for Jordan and Turkey, nations adversely affected by the Gulf crisis.

Discusses Gulf With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2610200590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a session of talks this evening with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis at the Meridian Hotel in Heliopolis. They discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. They also discussed bilateral relations and the means to strengthen them in the economic, political, and cultural fields.

After the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid gave a dinner banquet in honor of the Italian foreign minister.

Resumes Talks, Makes Statement

NC2610210690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1911 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said the meeting came in light of Italy's current chairmanship of the EC and on the eve of the European summit conference, scheduled for 27 and 28 October in Rome. He added that the situation in the Gulf will top the conference's agenda.

He noted that it was important for us to be briefed accurately on the Arab countries' positions, especially the positions of the countries that agree with our stand, foremost of which is Egypt.

He said: This important meeting with President Mubarak afforded me the opportunity to submit an extremely accurate report to the European summit.

He said he was pleased to hear from President Mubarak that Egypt and Europe's stands are identical.

He pointed out: We wish to reach a peaceful and positive solution to the problem. At the same time, this solution must be acceptable to the Arab and European countries and within the context of the UN resolutions.

He explained that this means the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on this problem, and said this message must be clear to the Iraqi Government and to President Saddam Husayn. He added that the international community's agreement in this respect is clear and this is what gives us the opportunity to reach important conclusions.

He emphasized that, in any case, aggression must not be rewarded, as there is no room for a compromise or partial solutions.

He said Egypt and the EC believe that time is not in Saddam Husayn's favor, adding: The sanctions have so far achieved the results and effectiveness we had expected. We will pursue this course which is based on our firm, unified, and strong stand, which unifies the international community members and dominates the Arab-European dialogue.

He pointed out that he and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will resume the talks today on bilateral relations and their economic aspects, as well as on the EC's economic aid to Egypt.

The Italian foreign minister was asked if there is anything new in the situation after Soviet envoy Primakov's statements touching on the possibilities of solving the issue peacefully. He replied: We must be optimistic about a peaceful solution for the simple reason that we are talking firmly and strongly. Also, it must be clear that we have not at all ruled out a military solution. However, we believe that we have possibilities and an opportunity ahead of us to achieve what we want peacefully, because Iraq's political and economic isolation is growing. What is important now is that we remain firmly united and not change our position.

Asked it there are indications of a change in Iraq's position, he said: We do not know and we do not have an official indication as to a change of position.

Asked if the European summit will adopt a unified military stand during its meetings in the Italian capital, he said: In our meeting in Rome on 27 October, Saturday, at the level of the heads of the EC states and governments, we will discuss the Gulf crisis for the first time; therefore, these discussions will be extremely important. At the end of these meetings, he added, a document will be endorsed, but I do not believe that this document will be different from the previous stands. He went on: We will also discuss ways to maintain our unity; our firm stand; and steps in the near future. As for the coordination between the European military forces, which have been sent separately because under the EC treaty the EC cannot move militarily and for reasons of security, we used the West European Union to coordinate these matters. This coordination is progressing very well. At the moment, there is high-level coordination between the European military forces in the Gulf region, and with other forces from the United States and Arab countries which have sent military forces to that region.

The Italian foreign minister expressed his belief that when coordination is achieved, future steps regarding developments there can be dealt with.

For his part, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who attended the meeting between President Mubarak and de Michelis, expressed his pleasure at meeting with his colleague, the Italian foreign minister and current chairman of the EC, during his visit to Egypt.

He described the meeting between Mubarak and de Michelis as very fruitful. He asserted the identity of the views of Egypt, Italy, the EC on the Gulf crisis.

He reiterated Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis, saying that it is obvious Egypt will support a peaceful solution if it is possible. This peaceful solution, he added, will be based on Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait. He went on to say that, within this context, Egypt follows the same EC line—the implementation of the UN Security Council and the Arab League resolutions, as well as the resolutions passed by the Arab summit conference in Cairo.

He said: We are coordinating with Italy and the EC through Italian Foreign Minister de Michelis. This is an absolutely important matter to us in light of the EC summit, due to be held tomorrow, Saturday.

Departs Cairo

NC2710080990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis left Cairo this morning after a one-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. De Michelis also met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and to review bilateral ties and means of bolstering them. He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department.

Paper Says Mubarak, Al-Asad To Meet on Gulf

NC2710171290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Today the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT affirmed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will discuss the Gulf crisis with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus this week.

The paper, which is close to the Saudi authorities, cited diplomatic sources in Cairo as saying that during their summit, the two president will discuss the Arab situation, particularly the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict, within the framework of the constant coordination and consultations between the two countries.

It is worth noting that this will be the two presidents' fifth meeting in the five months since their countries resumed diplomatic relations. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Holds News Conference 28 Oct

NC2810150090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Oct 90

["Text" of news conference by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with unidentified reporters on 28 October; place not given]

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—At a news conference at the end of his audiences at noon today, President Husni Mubarak stated that Egypt and the entire world favor a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem, but this does not mean that this should interfere with military preparations. He reasserted the need for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. President Mubarak said that Egypt is prepared to send more military support to the Gulf countries to safeguard their security if they request it.

President Mubarak praised the U.S. Congress for its approval a few hours ago of writing off Egypt's military debts and its request for certain countries to follow suit. The text of the news conference follows:

[Reporter] Egypt has captured the defendants responsible for the assassination of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. Do you feel that this problem is over, or are there still other groups at large?

[Mubarak] I believe that what has happened is not ordinary. Interrogation of those detained yesterday is continuing. They were found to possess large quantities of funds, in addition to weapons. We are continuing the interrogation to learn where the funds originated.

[Reporter] What about security measures in Egypt?

[Mubarak] We are taking intensive security measures. This is not new, but we have recently increased these measures.

[Reporter] Will Egypt send more helicopters and tanks to the Gulf?

[Mubarak] As I said before, if Saudi Arabia requests more military support and tanks, we will send them. This, however, does not mean that war will begin tomorrow. No, we hope this problem will be solved without military action. At the same time, we are for a complete withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and the restoration of legitimate rule. With regard to sending the helicopters, there are enough of them now and they do not need them because of the helicopters from the United States, France, and other countries; however, if the need arises for military aircraft to bolster the military situation, we will send them.

[Reporter] In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, King Husayn of Jordan said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had told him on 5 August that he would have withrawn from most of the Kuwaiti territories were it not for the Arab summit's condemnation.

[Mubarak] Actually, I am at a loss with our brother King Husayn. I wish I did not have to talk about him, but he started it. First of all, withdrawal from most but not all of the Kuwaiti territories is rejected by us and all the other countries. Neither we nor any other country could waive part of an occupied Arab country because this concerns the people and government of Kuwait.

Regarding our condemnation and whether he [Saddam Husayn] intended to withdraw, I have previously talked about this subject; but the truth is that somebody is playing with words to confuse people.

I have previously said that King Husayn visited me in Alexandria at 1800 on 2 August. I asked him to travel to Baghdad and to try to obtain a mere promise about flexibility over withdrawal and restoration of the legitimate government, and said that we would then call for a limited Arab summit and resolve the problem. King Husayn left for Baghdad on Friday morning [3 August] after we had telephoned the Iraqi president from Alexandria at 1830 on Thursday, the same day the aggression took place. King Husayn telephoned me on Friday morning before leaving Amman for Baghdad, and I emphasized two points: withdrawal, and the restoration of the legitimate government. The words were clear, and I am stating facts.

King Husayn left for Baghdad on Friday, 3 August. At about 1330 King Husayn telephoned me, but I was not near the telephone; I was in Alexandria. At 1530 or 1600 on Friday, 3 August, King Husayn telephoned me from Amman and said that he had tried to telephone King Fahd and me, but no one answered him. No. He telephoned me on 3 August in the afternoon from Amman after his return from meeting with President Saddam Husayn. He told me that everything was okay and that the brothers had agreed on a summit on Sunday. I asked him about the two points of withdrawal and restoration of the legitimate government. He said: I did not discuss this issue.

Of course, I could not possibly have called for a minisummit. What for? To sit and fight each other? I said I was ready to call for a minisummit only if it were implicitly understood that the crisis would end, the Iraqi troops would withdraw, legitimacy would return, and negotiations would start for finding a solution to the problem.

The president then asked: Why did King Husayn not tell me if he knew the Iraqi president was going to withdraw? Why did he not tell us on Friday? If he did, we would not have announced our condemnation. And what is this story that it was the condemnation that made the [Iraqi] brothers nervous? Are we going to ruin the people's future just because of this nervousness? If you [King Husayn] know that a withdrawal is going to take place on Sunday, 5 August, then tell me that there is an explicit agreement, not to be made public, and that a withdrawal is going to start on 5 August. We would have held a summit and worked out a very good scenario to solve the problem without complications. But he did nothing of the sort and did not inform me of any withdrawal.

In turn, I told him I had to issue Egypt's condemnation statement, and he said that the brothers would get nervous. It is not a question of the brothers' getting nervous. We are talking about a people's cause; and if the rulers are going to ruin the nation just because of their nervousness, this is illogical and absolutely senseless.

He says that he called and there was no answer. No. He called me twice on Friday, 3 August, and I do not understand why is he claiming that he could not get in touch with me. He called me from Amman at 0830 and 1545 on Friday, 3 August. I told him I had no choice but to issue the statement of condemnation, and I do not know why he is twisting the facts, and or what he wants.

[Reporter] How does Your Excellency see the situation now with respect to prospects for the peace efforts undertaken by Soviet envoy Primakov and others on the Gulf crisis, at a time when the United States is sending an additional 100,000 troops to the region?

[Mubarak] There is no relation between the two subjects. Efforts to secure a withdrawal and return legitimacy to Kuwait do not mean we should relax regarding the military solution. As for the peace efforts, we, the Americans, and everybody want this problem to be solved peacefuly in order to avoid bloodshed and destruction, provided there is full withdrawal and return of the legitimate government and no bargaining on these two points in particular.

[Reporter] Did the Soviet envoy tell you if there are new specific points?

[Mubarak] I learned about the talks Primakov held in various countries and that he went to Baghdad. If there is any good offer for a peaceful solution, we are ready to cooperate and assist, as long as it will solve the whole problem.

[Reporter] Is it possible for Egypt to adopt the issue of joint Arab security and to play the most prominent role in this issue, particularly since some Arab countries are sensitive about the foreign presence?

[Mubarak] There was talk about the security of the Gulf region. I can say that Gulf security and the thinking about security methods must be handled by the Gulf states. We are ready, however, to participate if we are so asked. We do not impose ourselves on anyone. The Gulf states are convinced that Gulf security should be Arab security. They are also convinced that the foreign presence alone cannot resolve the problem. There must be an Arab solution.

[Reporter] Is there a new Algerian proposal for a peaceful solution concerning Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Mubarak] Indeed, President Chadli Benjedid is making strenuous efforts in a bid to work out a peaceful solution based on withdrawal and the return of legitimacy. I am saying this so that some people will not misconstrue the Algerian stand. The Algerian Government's stand is clear: The Iraqi forces must withdraw, and legitimacy must return. The Algerians are working and making various attempts in this regard. We also support all attempts for the sake of realizing a just solution without bloodshed.

The president asked: Who wants to lose his sons? Neither the Arabs nor the Americans want this to happen. We do not want the blood of the sons of the Iraqi people to be spilled, nor do we want to waste the power of the Iraqi Armed Forces. This is absolutely true. But at the same time we want a just solution: withdrawal, return of legitimacy, and nonintervention in other countries' affairs. That is what President Saddam Husayn had said in his speech in 1988. He said that if Iraq attacks a country, you should mobilize your armies against Iraq. We are all now mobilizing our armies. We hope that the problem will be resolved soon, and we also hope that there will be no confrontation, because that would create chaos in the region.

[Reporter] Some people are demanding that the emergency law be suspended during the elections, at least concerning the candidates themselves.

[Mubarak] It would be absurd to demand that the emergency law be suspended just for the sake of the candidates.

The president asked: Should I let the candidates do whatever they like? Because they are candidates, am I not supposed to take any measures against them? The country's security is above any other consideration. I do not discriminate between people, whether they are candidates or not. Egypt's security is above any consideration. Egypt's security does not mean that I should give privileges to the candidate and prefer him to the ordinary citizen. This will never happen. Egypt's security is the security of every citizen.

The president said that the emergency law is being applied to wipe out terrorism and to confront any operations targeted against the country's security. Why the uproar over the emergency law? Egypt has always had an emergency law. We now use the emergency law less than anyone else does; therefore, this demand is absurd.

[Reporter] What about Yasir 'Arafat's initiative to establish a new Arab League in Tunisia?

[Mubarak] Let him do whatever he wants, and let him divide the Arab world. If this talk is true, then we wish him good luck; but if Arabs approve of a new Arab League and they are members of the Arab League, we will absolve ourselves of all our commitments. Let them search for a solution to the problem.

[Reporter] Despite the integrity of elections, some parties insist on boycotting them.

[Mubarak] The elections this time are based on individual candidates, and I know that this system is more difficult than elections based on party lists. But I say that the government does not forge elections. Some of them admitted that it is not the government which forges elections; it was the candidates who were doing so. What shall we do? It is the duty of the government to establish the necessary constraints to ensure the integrity of elections.

We do not give instructions on who should or should not win. I do not get mad if members of this or that party become members of the Assembly. They are all Egyptian citizens.

President Mubarak said that candidates from all parties—from the al-Wafd, Socialist Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and other parties—have actually been members of the Assembly.

[Reporter] Do you expect further efforts to be made to persuade European countries to write off Egypt's debts now that the U.S. Congress has approved writing off Egypt's military debt?

[Mubarak] The law issued by the U.S. Congress calls on President Bush to hold a meeting of Egypt's creditor countries to discuss following the U.S. lead in writing off Egypt's debts. I hope this will take place, and I believe that there is some conviction on the matter, particularly in the case of France which had earlier taken the initiative to reduce debts. I hope they will produce results.

I want to point out something on this issue. I read an article today saying that the writing off of the military debt will have an effect on prices and that people will live in prosperity.

The president asked: What prosperity? Has the writer forgotten that our population increases by more than 1 million every year? This year tourism fell to about 20 percent of the required total. He also forgot that the remittances of our sons who used to work in Kuwait and Iraq amount to zero now, nothing. We have lost about 8 or 9 billion [currency not specified]. If the debt had not been written off, we would not have been able to provide our daily food. Let no one think that the writing off of debts means prosperity. We must increase production. The cancellation of the debts must be an incentive for us to increase production and to boost exports so that we can obtain foreign currency revenue to compensate us for our losses.

[Reporter] After holding numerous meetings, do you now think there will be war or peace in the Gulf?

[Mubarak] Anything can end in peace and must end in peace.

[Reporter] And the military option?

[Mubarak] We hope we will not reach the point of resorting to the military option. I wish this with all my heart. Still, do not say no to the military option when you do not want to withdraw. In that case, you will force the world to deal with you militarily.

The president added: Let us look at what happened. You have territory that has been occupied, and force has been used. Withdraw then. Moreover, some people support what was done even though in the past they themselves have been attacked by another country and Egypt stood by them. Jordan once quarreled with Iraq, and the latter mobilized forces on its border. Egypt supported Jordan at that time. Jordan was also subjected to the same situation when Syria mobilized its forces on the Jordanian border in the days of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. Egypt again stood by Jordan. There is no need to support the occupation of any territory by force—particularly as some of our territory is occupied—because that will turn into a dangerous principle that will apply to all.

Cabinet Reviews Security, Foreign Policy

NC2810184490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The Cabinet members discussed the domestic situation in light of the report presented by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa on the plan followed by his ministry after the assassination of late Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and his companions as well as the assault against a number of police officers.

The aforementioned was contained in a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He said the interior minister's report contained a security analysis of the circumstances of and motives for the crime and the method used in the investigations in accordance with an accurate plan. The interior minister emphasized that right from the start, all the procedures complied with the law and had the knowledge and consent of the public prosecutor.

In his report, the interior minister presented information on those who carried out the incident; their hideouts; the explosives, machine guns [as heard], and motorcycles used in the attack; and the defendants' confession that they carried out the attack. The interior minister described the clashes that took place between the defendants and the police, both in the defendents' dens or while the members of the groups were being chased on al-Jami'ah Street in al-Jizah Governorate on 27 October. He also noted the injuries sustained by the police officers and men as well as by the attacking terrorists.

The interior minister pointed out in his report that some of the weapons used in carrying out the crime had been seized and that the prosecution is currently interrogating seven defendants who were arrested. He stressed his confidence in the efficiency and capability of the Egyptian security agencies.

The interior minister pointed out that after the invasion of Kuwait, a number of terrorist organizations, comprising dozens of Palestinians of various nationalities who held forged passports, had been discovered, adding that they had planned to conduct sabotage operations inside Egypt. The minister explained the tasks assigned to them on behalf of other countries as well as the arms, ammunitions, explosives, money, detailed plans, and documents for carrying out terrorist operations found in their hideouts. They infiltrated the country at different border points of entry with specific assignments to carry out, in person or in cooperation and through contacts with Egyptian extremists.

In his report to the Cabinet, the interior minister revealed that an Iraqi organization using Palestinians to contact Egyptian extremists in order to carry out acts of sabotage inside the country had been discovered.

The information minister added that the Cabinet stressed full confidence in the efficiency of the Egyptian police agencies and their ability to safeguard Egypt and its people and to confront whoever attempts to undermine its stability. The Cabinet expressed thanks and appreciation to the interior minister and all the police personnel.

The information minister added that the Cabinet then discussed the political, economic, and technical results of President Mubarak's visits to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Qatar, and Oman. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid explained the political aspect of this tour and the talks that President Mubarak held with the Arab leaders on developments in the Gulf crisis, bilateral relations between Egypt and each of the countries covered by the tour, and efforts to restore Arab solidarity.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the results of the president's talks with the Arab leaders indicated agreement on the need for unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy. The talks also touched on the future of the region from the regional security angle, within the framework of pan-Arab security after the Gulf crisis is over. The Cabinet underlined the responsibility of the Arab nation in principle and the need to maintain security and stability in the Gulf region.

In his report, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out the importance of the subjects on the agenda of the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee and the importance of establishing a joint ministerial committee with the UAE, in implementation of the agreement reached between President Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Zayid.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also briefed the Cabinet on the results of the talks held in Cairo by the Soviet envoy, and the agreement on the need for Iraq to withdraw fully from Kuwait and on not rewarding the aggressor for his aggression.

[Planning Minister] Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri then talked about the economic aspect of President Mubarak's tour, which resulted in Egypt's debts to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Oman being waived to the tune of $6.6 billion, as well as about the discussion on ways to bolster the Egyptian economy both in the short and mid term. Dr. al-Janzuri then noted the U.S. Congress' decision to waive Egypt's military debts of $7.1 billion.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi noted the positive results of the waiver of both the Arab debts and the military debts to the United States and its impact on the Egyptian balance of payments, budget, and development plan. During the meeting, Dr. Sidqi revealed that contacts are under way with a number of friendly countries to waive Egypt's military debts. He also briefed the Cabinet on the course of negotiations with the IMF, which are nearing completion, in preparation for rescheduling the debts under easier terms.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif then spoke about the agreement on media cooperation resulting from President Mubarak's tour. In this respect it was agreed with Saudi Arabia to boost Egypt's radio and television transmissions through direct broadcasts so they might reach Egyptian troops in the Kingdom. It was also agreed with the UAE to allocate a medium-wave radio frequency and to install equipment that could ensure television transmissions could reach the areas where Egyptian troops are stationed in the UAE. This is in implementation of the agreements reached by President Mubarak with both King Fahd and the UAE president.

On the military side, the minister of defense and war production discussed the significance of the visit to Saudi Arabia and the UAE by President Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to inspect the Egyptian troops which are there on a sacred mission to uphold principles and values. The Cabinet addressed a salute to the Armed Forces for their pioneering role in safeguarding Egypt and the Arab nation.

The supply minister then spoke about Egypt's available strategic supplies of wheat and other basic commodities, in accordance with the plan drawn up by the supply ministry.

Further Developments in Mahjub Assassination

Jihad Fundamentalists Arrested

JN2710141490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] It has been learned from ranking sources in Cairo that Egyptian security organs have arrested the criminals who murdered Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub and six others. The information says that the five arrested are members of the extremist fundamentalist al-Jihad organization. The security organs are now continuing their investigation to learn who else is involved in the murder. The specialized security organs have issued a press ban on the case.

Casualties in Arrest Reported

NC2710172990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Within the framework of the intensive search for the perpetrators of the assassination of the late Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, his aides, and a number of policemen, the state security intelligence department has discovered the elements who planned and carried out the incident and has revealed the channels of communications between these elements and their supporters abroad.

Having obtained the permission of the state security prosecution to raid and to search the dens of these elements, at dawn today the security authorities attacked four dens in Cairo and al-Jizah Governorates. Six members of the extremist al-Jihad Organization who participated in planning and carrying out the incident were arrested. A statement issued by the Interior Ministry tonight says that a large quantity of arms, ammunition, explosives, disguise paraphernalia, motorbikes, pamphlets, some documents from the organization, and forged identity cards and documents were seized with these elements.

A police officer and two policemen were injured during the operation.

In order to detain the other elements who took part in the assassination and on the basis of information obtained from some of the culprits about the dens of these elements in the al-Jizah area, the police pursued them this afternoon on Cairo University street in al-Jizah. But these elements opened fire on the pursuing police. One police officer and a policeman were injured by bullets and an explosive device. The security men were forced to exchange fire with these elements and so killed two of them. A third was injured and the rest arrested. The injured were taken to the hospital, and the state security prosecutor has gone there to investigate.

Paper on Arrests, 'Real Target'

NC2810161290 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (AFP)—The real target of the assassins of Egypt's parliamentary speaker, Rif'at al-Mahjub, was Interior Minister Abd-al-Halim Musa, AL-AHRAM newspaper reported Sunday [28 October].

The semi-official daily said Muslim fundamentalists accused of the October 12 murder had confessed they had planned to assassinate Mr. Musa in revenge for the killing of a leading fundamentalist, Ala' Muhiy-al-Din.

The interior minister was to have driven along the same Nile-side road just minutes before Mr. al-Mahjub was gunned down, AL-AHRAM said. Mr. Muhiy-al-Din, close to the fundamentalist al-Jihad organisation, was shot dead last month.

Police said he was killed in a settling of scores between rival fundamentalists, but an Egyptian human rights organisation said the police may have been implicated.

Two members of al-Jihad were killed, a third was wounded and six others arrested in raids here Saturday on the hide-outs of Mr. al-Mahjub's alleged killers, the Interior Ministry said.

Two police officers and three soldiers were also wounded, the ministry said. The alleged assassins had received support from abroad.

AL-AHRAM said one of the leaders of the group had returned from Afghanistan in search of funding for al-Jihad just days before the parliamentary speaker was killed. Other members of the group had travelled several times to Yemen, Sudan and other Arab countries, the paper said.

Mr. al-Mahjub was killed in broad daylight when assailants on motorcycles opened fire at his chauffeur-driven Mercedes and its police escort. Five other people also died.

Al-Jihad, or holy war in Arabic, assassinated President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981 in a plot to overthrow the government.

In the latest clampdown, police have in the last two weeks arrested 50 alleged terrorists working for Palestinian groups, broken up 15 cells and seized arms and ammunition, AL-AHRAM said. Apart from al-Jihad, those arrested include Palestinians, Jordanians, Algerians and Tunisians said to belong to the Fatah Revolutionary Council, the Palestine Liberation Front and a hitherto unknown group, The International.

'Hundreds' of Islamists Released

JN2410193590 Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic
17 October 90 p 1

[Text] The Higher State Intelligence Department branches in Cairo and all other governorates have released hundreds of Islamic group members because no incriminating evidence was brought against them confirming their involvement in the assassination of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

The State Intelligence Department had arrested more than 1,000 Islamists in the wake of the assassination of al-Mahjub to interrogate them and learn whether they extended any assistance to the culprits, or if they hade anything to do with the assassination. Most of those arrested were released when it was proven that they had nothing to do with the incident.

Hundreds of Islamists Arrested

NC2810204690 Paris AFP in English 2034 GMT
28 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (AFP)—Egyptian police rounded up more than 390 Islamic fundamentalists following the arrest Saturday [27 October] of eight militants suspected in the assassination of the country's parliamentary speaker, Cairo newspapers reported here in their Monday editions.

Most of those detained in the second wave of arrests late Saturday and Sunday were from the central and southern provinces of Bani Suwayf and Asyut, according to the newspapers AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-AHRAM.

Eight of the militants were leaders of the al-Jihad (Holy War) group that police believe was involved in the killing October 12 in downtown Cairo of Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian parliament.

The second sweep followed police operations here Saturday in which two members of al-Jihad were killed and eight were captured, including one who was wounded.

Two police officers and three soliders were also injured during raids on the hide-outs of Mr. al-Mahjub's alleged killers, according to the interior ministry.

Paper on Opposition Boycott of Elections

JN2510155690 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
22 Oct 90 pp 1, 6

[Editorial by Mustafa Kamil Murad: "Boycotting the Elections and Changing Policies!"]

[Text] At a press conference yesterday, the opposition declared that it will boycott the general People's Assembly elections. The boycott was declared by the Wafd, Labor, Muslim Brotherhood, and Liberal Parties. The National Progressive Unionist Grouping declared that it will take part in the elections. This means that the overwhelming majority of the opposition represented by the above parties has decided to boycott the elections for political and constitutional reasons related to the main basis of democracy, which is the freedom and honesty of elections and noninterference of the government or any other party in influencing the opinion of voters. This is in view of the following reasons:

First: Several weeks ago, the opposition parties submitted to President Mubarak ideas about the amendments which need to be introduced into the political rights law to guarantee the freedom and honesty of elections. The most important ideas about the proposed amendments were:

A. Judges should actually supervise the elections in accordance with the Constitution. This necessitates that judges head the general committees that are distributed among polling centers and police stations, as well the subcommittees distributed in villages and rural areas, which number approximately 23,000.

A committee, we know, is comprised of a chairman, secretary, representatives for the candidates, a ballot box, and a list of voters including between 500 and700 names. These voters usually represent a residential area of 2,000-3,000 citizens, or 400-600 families. This equals a residential quarter in a town, or a part of a village. These 23,000 committees are distributed among 6,000 centers such as schools, hospitals, government institutions, etc. The government argued that there are not enough judges to head all the subcommittees. Therefore, the opposition proposed that the elections be held over two or three days. There was a precedent for this in the thirties. Besides, the Constitution does not object to that. The opposition made another proposal, which was that judges should head the 6,000 polling centers among which the subcommittees are distributed. There are over 8,000 judges, public prosecutors, and administrative public prosecutors. This means that there are enough members of the judicial authority to head the centers. The objective is clear. Given the nature of their job, judges are honest and impartial. Under the real supervision of judges, there will be no rigging of the elections by the marking of the ballots of those who fail to appear at the concerned ballot center. Such ballots amount to 70 percent of the overall number, which totals 14 million.

B. The electorate should put their signatures alongside their names on the electoral rolls after they cast their ballots in order to make it possible to determine the actual number of those who have voted. The reason for this is that since general elections were first held in Egypt in 1924, it has not been possible to establish how many turned out because the actual number was always hidden by the fact that voters neither signed nor fingerprinted alongside their names on the electoral rolls.

C.—Emergency laws should be suspended from the day the electorate is invited to vote for the National Assembly to the day the returns are announced in order to keep competent government authorities from detaining representatives of the opposition party candidates in the election committees on the eve of polling, and then releasing them on the following day after the committee gates are closed and voting ends. This is to ensure that election committees are not left without the representatives of the opposition, and thus make it easier to tamper with the elections and their integrity.

Second: The government has granted none of the opposition's demands. Indeed, a presidential decree effected amendments to the election law, thereby applying the system of individual constituencies rather than that of proportional tickets. The government has also introduced amendments to the law governing the exercise of political rights. Given the extreme importance of these two laws and their far-reaching effect on free and fair elections, the government might have consulted the political parties in the spirit of the holy Koran: And consult in affairs of the moment [Koranic verse]. But the government has failed to do this—either directly or indirectly. Instead, it went ahead and unilaterally introduced whatever amendments it chose—something no fair-minded observer would deem conducive to fair and free elections.

Third: The government distributed constituencies in a manner inconsistent with any logic, and ridiculously and inexplicably split them up, especially those where party leaders are running—Kafr Shukr (Khalid Muhyi-al-Din), Shirbin (Ibrahim Shukri), Misr al Qadimah (Mustafa Murad). We will keep a record of the amendments icorporated into the parliamentary system of Egypt in order for researchers in the years ahead to see how Egyptian governments have unfairly tampered with constituencies on geographical and demographical grounds. They will see how the government haphazardly and childishly split up constituencies in the manner in which Israel was established so as to become a wedge between the eastern and western wings of the Arab world.

In the light of the aforementioned facts, it becomes clear that the government's intention is unambiguous—that is, to control all the constituencies and seats of the Assembly. It has set its mind on this goal and has made plans to achieve it so as to exclude the opposition from parliamentary action. The government has not responded to any of the opposition's requests and has not consulted it on any of the laws it has passed concerning voting, political rights, or the division of constituencies. If this is so, then the opposition is left with one choice only; namely, to leave the whole arena to the government so it can do whatever it wants, to let it form a national Assembly which conforms to its desires, and to let it pursue its approach. Thiswill take us gradually away from the road of democracy until the parliament becomes a toy in the hands of the government, considering that the Council of Ministers has become devoid of any value or weight; its meetings are now few and far between, and ministers are now equal to the ministrys' under secretaries. Moreover, the government indirectly controls the judiciary by appointing many judges as legal advisers of public institutions and the ministries and establishments affiliated to them, to the extent that a judge has now become an adviser to the minister, while at the same time being the one who abolishes the decisions of the minister. All authority and duties now rest withn President Husni Mubarak. The inevitable result of this is:

First, the spread of unemployment: We have 3 million unemployed, which amounts to 20 percent of the manpower.

Second, the poor service rendered by government institutions in all walks of life, which aggravate people's suffering.

Third, the continuing rapid increase in the price of goods and services as a result of inflation and the disparity between wages and prices.

Fourth, defective planning: The state has spent more than 40 percent of its investments, 20 billion [currency not specified] of the five-year plan on utilities. This has led to an imbalance between the production of goods and that of services, which has resulted in the inflation we pointed out earlier.

Fifth, the decline in investments and the failure or halting of many investment projects as a result of the devaluation of the Egyptian pound and the scarcity of the dollar.

This is the political situation in Egypt which has resulted from the absence of the principle of separation of authority and the concentration of authority. This, in our opinion, is primarily due to the fact that cultural parliaments in the past period have not been true representatives of public opinion and began to oscillate among various systems, adopting them at times and relinquishing them at others; for example, the system of absolute lists and percentages, etc. Thus, things are moving from bad to worse. We pray to God to keep us safe and to guide the decisionmakers and the president of Egypt and enlighten them about reality so they can become aware of the poor situation which is currently prevailing after public and political crimes have increased in the Egyptian theater. The opposition's boycott of the elections is a warning to the government and its party to awaken from their slumber and discover the real direction events have taken and not be full of arrogance.

Further on Reinforcements for Saudi Arabia

JN2810125390 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
26 Oct 90 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-KHALIJ and News Agencies—[passage omitted] Al-KHALIJ has learned that President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as supreme commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces, has agreed to Saudi Arabia's request to send an Egyptian armored division to join the other Egyptian forces stationed in the Hafr al-Batin area in the northern part of Saudi Arabia, in addition to dispatching two squadrons of F-16's and Mirage 2000's, as well as some antitank and attack helicopters

Egyptian military sources said that the combat preparedness of the fourth armored division which consists of 300 M-60 tanks was actually enhanced, and that an inspection was carried on the brigade last week to ascertain its preparedness for war, its efficiency, and that it has the necessary weaponry and military hardware. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Criticizes Islamic Fundamentalists

LD2810040790 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2342 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the end of the 13th Revolutionary Committees Movement seminar in Tripoli on 26 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, brother revolutionary members of the revolutionary committees of the Jamahiriyah and of the international revolutionary committees in Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia: The last day of the 13th Revolutionary Committee Movement seminar happened to be 26 October, a national day of mourning, a day we will never forget. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we have repeatedly said that Italy now presents itself as a friend of Libya and a supporter of Libya at the international organizations. The Italy of today exerts political and economic efforts toward abolishing the U.S. and European siege of Libya. Why? Because there is a revolution in Libya, and the United States is the enemy of freedom; because Libya supports the Palestinian people, and the United States does not want the Palestinian people to return to their land; and because Libya would like to unite the Arab nation, and the United States is the mortal enemy of Arab unity. Because of all these, the United States forced the colonized European countries to boycott Libya economically. However, Italy has always opposed this resolution. [passage omitted]

I tell you that war between the Libyan and the Italian peoples is coming in this generation, or the following generation, unless the Libyan people are mentally satisfied with Italy's atonement and seeking forgiveness by offering moral and material compensation to the Libyan people. We do not care if this becomes a serious precedent in the world, making all the peoples demand compensation from their (?former) colonizers. [passage omitted]

To avoid new tragedies between Libya and Italy and between Algeria and France, I call on Italy to expiate this abominable crime, and I also call on France to expiate its horrible crime against the Algerian people.

The Revolutionary Committee Movement is not an authority, nor a government, nor a political party, but a revolutionary movement of the people, the grass roots, and the masses, whose mission is to incite the masses to seize power because the revolutionary committees should not work to seize power for themselves. So long as we remain a movement of the masses and the people and a revolutionary, nongovernmental, nonofficial, nonregional, and nonpartisan movement, our mission is to incite the Algerian people to take revenge from France peacefully or through war. [applause and revolutionary slogans]

To defend our dignity and unity, to liberate our land, and to produce the power with which we could deter the enemy so that the barbarians will not think again of attacking our homes from the Atlantic to the Gulf, we should not be worried by what could happen.

They say: We are a superpower. What does this mean? It means that they could use force. They also say: Do not go near Palestine for this will lead to U.S. intervention. Even if the United States intervened, so what? The hell with it! [applause and revolutionary slogans]

They also say that action for Arab unity is provoking the United States. We tell them: The hell with you! They again say that the constitution of a deterrent and offensive force will not be allowed by the United States. We tell them: The hell with you!

Dear brothers: we have to affirm our existence and live worthily on the earth by achieving Arab unity, liberating Palestine, and making the enemy fear us. We will never hesitate to take this path, no matter how great the threats. What is the end of such threats? Is it war? Fine, let there be war. Who says that war will be to the advantage of the United States, or to the advantage of Europe, or to the advantage of the Israelis? What makes them believe that if a war breaks out it will be to their advantage? It could well be the opposite. If a war breaks out with the Arab nation on a wide scale, such a war will be unrestrained and terrorist and we will not worry about the (?might) of the (?adversary) and the enemy. Such a war could lead to the collapse of capitalism in the world and the collapse of imperialism and Zionism. [applause and revolutionary slogans]

If the United States, Italy, France, Europe or even the Jews want peace and want a cooperative world free from terror, they should not obstruct our path while we are building ourselves, uniting ourselves, and liberating the land. They should not stand in our way.

We do not want to raid Europe, raid the United States, or annihilate the Jews. We want the Palestinian people to return to Palestine, peacefully or through war, and they have the choice: let it be peacefully, but war is welcome. [applause and cheers] [passage omitted]

Peace with the United States lies in frightening the United States by showing that it will lose in the confrontation, in the battle with the Arab nation. The battle and the war is not to the advantage of the United States. We should make the United States reach this conviction: that it will lose in the confrontation, lose in the war, lose in the intervention, and lose in supporting so- called Israel. This comes with the building of strength, the building of Arab unity, and the belittling of those enemies, and by raising our voice and by challenging and by accepting the battle with them without hesitation, irrespective of the sacrifices.

I said we should accept the war against them without hesitation. Algeria presented one and a half million martyrs when its population were perhaps seven million, perhaps five million. They presented one and a half million. Libya's population was one and a half million, and presented three fourths of a million martyrs. Look at the Arab nation now, its population is approaching 300 or 400 million. The United States, Europe, and the Jews should reconsider their previous calculations. If these peoples, when they were poor, barefoot, hungry, without weapons, illiterate, very sparsely populated, presented significant sacrifices before which history stands in awe, then think what could happen now after this nation has become hundreds of millions. If a war occurs between us and the United States or even Europe or whomever, even if 50 million die, twice the number of those who died in the world war, this would stil not affect the Arab nation. Three hundred million Arabs would survive. We would not be affected at all if we presented 50 million for the sake of deterring the United States and deterring its insolence and interference and for the sake of frightening Europe.

They (?do not want) peace. Peace cannot be achieved unless the United States is afraid of clashing with the Arabs, Europe is afraid of clashing with the Arabs, and Zionism is afraid and withdraws meekly from Palestine. Only then will peace be achieved.

We will embark on inciting Arab unity, building Arab strength, liberating the Arab land, and standing bravely in the face of the United States to demand from it only that it not interfere within the borders of the Arab homeland, from the ocean to the Gulf, and not to adopt any regime. If it adopts any regime, this is colonialist intervention, and we will fight it with all the means which the United States hates in its country and home. [applause]

If the United States continues its alliance with Zionism against the Palestinian people, this is aggression, and we are considered in a state of war against the United States and must fight the United States as it fights us. This is the right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which was proposed by the U.S. President himself in World War II. [passage omitted]

We destroy the oil? This is our oil! We are stronger than the United States! This is our oil! It is in our hands, we are strong! We have the Straits of Gibraltar! This is Arab! Spain should immediately leave Ceuta and Melilla; otherwise, we will call on the Moroccan people and the Moroccan youth to fight for the liberation of Ceuta and Melilla. It is a shame for Ceuta and Melilla to continue to belong to Europe. This is a shame that should be erased with blood. Let the youth of Morocco hear me! [applause]

We have Bab al-Mandab, we have the Strait of Hormuz, we have the oil and holy places. We control communications among the continents of the world. Any contact from the east to the west, from the north to the south, and vice-versa takes place only across the Arab homeland. This is what we threaten, and we should impose a toll on them. We should be the ones who give them the permission to establish or not a establish contact. All the continents—Africa, Asia, Europe, and America—can contact each other only across the Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

The Arab nation should know that it is possible that those opponents are paper tigers. The United States, to maintain its forces in the Gulf, is begging from all the states of the world. It says: by God, give me money! U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia are mercenaries being fed by Japan and Germany. [passage omitted]

This should be a lesson to the Arab nation. Suppose that they even strike the Arab nation with nuclear bombs. With its will and insistence the Arab nation will be a power in spite of the United States, and the United States some day and in some future generation will beg the Arabs, will beg this nation and ask for help and aid.

If we decide to destroy the oil we can do so. What could the United States do? Would all the United States come to protect the oil? We could send a few million to destroy the oil. They would destroy it. We could send a few millions to block the Suez Canal, Bab al-Mandab, or Gibraltar. We could send million. The United States has not taken that into consideration. We are now basing the equation on this basis. Let the politicians hear.

I am now talking about the revolutionary committees movement, which has the future and which will change the world. [passage omitted]

If they want peace they should compensate us; ask our forgiveness; kneel before us, before history and before the human race; and atone for their appalling crimes. Only then can peace be achieved and we would forgive them. Otherwise war between Algeria and France is inevitable, between Tunisia and France is inevitable, and between Libya and Italy is inevitable. If this generation does not do it, then the following generation, in which all the hatred factors will accumulate, will do it. [passage omitted]

Authority in the Jamahiriyah regime belongs to the people. The people hate authority and attack it, whether it is held by a prophet, a demigod, or a revolutionary party. When authority becomes the people's, it will not be attacked or held as an enemy, because the people are the authority. Only the enemies of the people conspire against it, and they should be annihilated without any discussion. When authority is in the hands of the masses, the one who opposes the masses should be crushed under the feet of the masses, even without trial. [passage omitted]

Brothers [words indistinct] and the parties will be defeated; the sectarianism will be defeated; and the authorities, governments and class societies will be defeated. They are collapsing before our eyes everywhere. [passage omitted]

There is another thing that is very serious, which is if someone claims that he is governing in the name of God or in the name of God's messenger. This is heresy, and the heretic will go to Hell. It someone comes to you and says: I rule in the name of the Prophet, I am a descendent of the Prophet, or my grandfather is the Prophet. He is a charlatan. The Prophet was never a ruler. This is a lie and fraud. The Prophet was never a ruler, president, or king. He was only the Prophet.

Then: "If any do fail to judge by what God hath revealed they are unbelievers." [koranic verse] If we have people in dispute and quarrelling with each other, we are expected to judge between them according to what God revealed! Does God talk about how authority should be on Earth, in the state? Does god talk about parliament? Does God talk about agriculture, services, or public works? May God forgive us. These things are left for the humans, and if anyone interferes in them in the name of God, then he is a false prophet and should be beheaded.

If you are governed by someone in the name of God, then that is it. It means that we give him the right of life and death. We will not be able to say to him: This is wrong. In any government there are hundreds of mistakes. If a president is governing in the name of God, and if there are elections after four years and he failed in the elections, this means that God's rule has failed! Is this reasonable?

There are fraud and deception, there is a wave of fraud spreading over the Arab homeland. We must stand firmly against it. Over the Arab land only the banner of Arab nationalism should be raised.

Listen, the youth of Mauritania, youth of Morocco, youth of Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, the Peninsula, and Yemen should not raise any banner except the banner of pan-Arabism. There are no ethics but Islamic ethics, to which you should adhere. Not Islamic rule: What kind of humbug is this? The Islamic ethics are welcome. Pray, and pay the the zakat [Islamic charity tax]. Perform the pilgrimage to the holy Ka'bah, if the U.S. has left it. Or, evict them to do so. This is reasonable. [applause]

Arab ideals? Arab chivalry, which Islam had glorified and admired: How can I lose it? They say: You are not an Arab; you are a Muslim.

I am an Arab and have ideals, values, and principles which God the Almighty has glorified, maintained, and demands be preserved. Then, you come and tell me in the name of Islam: Get rid of them? Never! You are working against Islam, because Islam has preserved the Arab ideals and preserved the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Another thing, there is only one God, six prophets, six religions, and six messages. Every nation has a prophet, a holy book, and has its (?own situation). But, if someone comes and says I govern you in the name God, then he is mad [words indistinct] some things are forbidden here, but allowed there. God said so. He forbade us to eat pork, but the Christians can eat it. He did not forbid them to eat it. [passage omitted]

You cannot establish a cabinet in the name of God. This is (?heresy). To enter elections in the name of God, this is heresy. Religion has nothing to do with services, as I told you. It has nothing to do with interior or foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Is it possible to have a state—this is ridiculous - in this era with all its ministers imams and shaykhs?

There is a positive, pleasing thing: the Sudanese people have formed a pan-Sudanese conference for dialogue in which hundreds of people took part. [applause]

This conference, I attended its final session, brought together all the Sudanese elements, from the north, the south, the center, the west, and the east. It has independent personalities and those who used to be in the old parties. It has Muslims; Christians; people from the most extreme right, to the most extreme left; all the elements. It began the beginning of August and lasted nearly three months. It studied the experiences of the world and the Sudan. [passage omitted]

After close examination and study, it decided that there is no better regime to suit the Sudanese people, a regime which will make the future of the world, which makes every people shoulder its responsibility, other than the regime of people's congresses and committees, and consequently they decided to adopt it. [applause] [passage omitted]

Brothers, starting with this 13th gathering, the Arab earth will shake with people's revolutions, the voice of the revolutionary committees, and the call for Arab unity, liberation, and the confrontation of colonialism everywhere. We must defeat fear, defeat hesitation.

Brothers, our voice should be loud, and we should hold our heads high, wave our fists, and move to build strength from our land with our great nation and its unlimited capabilities.

Brothers, welcome to the confrontation with the United States, with the Israelis, with colonialism, with the Europeans, with all those who do not want peace, do not want freedom, do not want tranquility for peoples, do not want unity for this nation. We will confront them with strong determination.

Forward, brothers! The revolutionary struggle continues! [passage omitted]

Mauritania

'Arafat Meets Taya, Comments on Gulf, Israel

AB2610182890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 24 Oct 90

[Text] Yesterday Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat visited Nouakchott for a few hours. During this visit, he held talks with Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. Their talks focused on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Arab nation. Hassan Leif reviews this visit for us.

[Leif] Relations between Mauritania and Palestine are excellent, and our country's support to the just cause of the Palestinian people has never faltered. Yasir 'Arafat noticed this during talks with the head of state. Before leaving, he explained to the head of state the Palestian people's stand and thanked him for his actions in the Arab nation's interest. He said that Israel was trying to use the Gulf crisis to attack his people, and he told the head of state about Israeli intentions concerning a crusade against Islam. He said this was a crime that the Arab and Islamic nation as a whole must confront. The Palestinian president pointed out that the killings which took place and continue daily have resulted from the Palestinian people's determination to defend its [word indistinct].

Concerning the PLO's efforts to face the Iraeli's escalation of violence in the occupied territories, Yasir 'Arafat said that his organization was working toward the [word indistinct]. He stressed that his organization's goal was to see international law applied. That is why the PLO has asked the United Nations to send in international forces to protect Islamic holy places in [word indistinct] and Palestine and Palestinian people.

On the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian president reaffirmed the determination of the two parties to find a political and peaceful solution among Arabs. He said an agreement should be adopted by Arabs and the international community to avoid war. If the Arab nation is spared a disaster, peace will be ensured in the world. On efforts by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to solve the Gulf crisis and most problems in the region including the occupation of Arab Palestinian territories by Israel, he said they have prompted positive reactions as shown by the French president's statements as well as statements of Soviet and European officials.

Presidential Decree Appoints New Officials

AB2810155090 Paris AFP in French 1917 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Oct (AFP)—Lieutenant Colonel Lemine Ould N'Diayane, chief of staff of the National Guard, has been appointed permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN, the ruling body), under a presidential decree published this afternoon in Nouakchott. He was replaced as the head of the National Guard by Major Wellad Ould Heimdoune, formerly governor for the Hodh Oriental Region (in the eastern part of the country). Under the same decree, Lt. Col. N'Diaye Kane, who was formerly CMSN permanent secretary, has been appointed minister counsellor at the presidency.

Finally, the decree stipulated that the directorate for the rehabilitation of Mauritanians repatriated from Senegal will henceforth fall under the CMSN Permanent Secrertariat and that the Ministry of Planning and Employment—until now headed by Mr. Mohamedou Ould Michel—has been replaced by the Planning Ministry.

New Soviet Ambassador Presents Credentials

AB2810181690 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Summary] This afternoon in Nouakchott Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, received the letters of credence of His Excellency (Vladimir Sisov), the new Soviet ambassador accredited to Mauritania.

Outgoing Gabonese Envoy Bids Taya Farewell

AB2810181290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Summary] This afternoon in Nouakchott Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, received His Excellency Roger Tchibota-Souamy, the outgoing Gabonese ambassador to Mauritania, who went to bid him farewell.

Sudan

Government Sequesters Property of Defectors

EA2710193690 Khartoum SUNA in English 1026 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27 October (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government has announced that it has sequestered all estates, properties and accounts of the defendants who recently joined the rebellion and who face charges of high treason. The general prosecutor, in a statement to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" published today said the government has sequestered all properties of former Armed Forces General Commander General [Ret.] Fathi Ahmad Ali, former Commerce and Cooperation Minister Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, and Director of the Former State Security Major Gen. al-Hadi Bushra. The daily said investigations on the suits fielded against Fathi Ahmad Ali and others are still under way.

Successes of 'Bright Star Campaign' Reported

EA2710214290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] After two weeks of heavy fighting, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Front] forces of the Bright Star campaign, Phase Two, Sector Two, halted, frustrated, and finally yesterday, 26 October 1990, repulsed and destroyed a large enemy force that was attempting to recapture the strategic town of Melut between Renk and Malakal [in Upper Nile].

Fighting started on 11 October 1990 when an enemy combined force of regular troops, auxiliary police, militias, and so-called People's Defense Forces advanced from Malakal and from Renk in an attempt to converge on and recapture Melut. 'Umar al-Bashir's forces were badly beaten in the final battle that started at 1300 on 25 October 1990 and ended at 1600 yesterday, 26 October 1990. More than 45 enemy soldiers were killed, many more captured, many wounded, and arms and ammunition of various types captured. In a futile attempt, 'Umar al-Bashir's headquarters tried to parachute food and ammunition to the disorganized, disoriented, and confused soldiers, but all the parachuted supplies were taken by the SPLA.

The force, though large, consisted of raw recruits given hardly two months training and sent to their death. These civilian soldiers threw away their guns and fled. A great number drowned in the River Nile trying to cross to Kaka Government Garrison on the West Bank [Melut is on the East Bank]. More were eaten by crocodiles. SPLA forces are pursuing remnants that are dispersed in the area. Civilians here are urged to apprehend, disarm, (?beat), and escort these astray and hungry soldiers to the nearest SPLA camp.

In a message to Radio SPLA, the commander in chief and chairman of SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/SPLA], Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has passed millions of congratulations to the Sector Two commander, officers, noncommissioned officers, and men of the Bright Star campaign for this great victory, and urges them on to yet more victories so as to bring to a quick end the regime of this arrogant and primitive general.

NDA Representatives Discuss Islamic Front, Army

EA2710223090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Interview with representatives of the National Democratic Alliance, NDA, by Comrade Yasir Sayyid Arman; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Arman] Our country attained independence in the vanguard of African and Arab states. The Sudanese people yearned to build an exemplary modern state, but what happened was different. Despite all that, the Sudanese people did not become apathetic. On the contrary, they vigorously resisted through their mass movement all over the homeland. They succeeded in effecting change several times, but they failed to solve the fundamental problems obstructing their development. In this context our people's movement of the NDA was unified against the Islamic Front regime. The movement has resolved to derive lessons and results to lay down solutions and a realistic and balanced basis for building a new Sudan. [passage omitted]

Brother Mubarak [interior minister until 30 June 1989], the Islamic Front leadership has often alleged that a reconciliation between itself and the opposition forces, particularly the 'Ummah Party, is possible. How do you view these allegations?

[Mubarak] I thank you, Brother Yasir and Radio SPLA [Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army] for your interest in conducting this interview with the alliance leaders on issues of the homeland. First, regarding the allegations of the Islamic Front regime in Khartoum and the possibility of a reconciliation between itself and the opposition forces, particularly the 'Ummah Party, I say there is no common basis or suitable basis for such forecasts because the 'Ummah Party's principled and declared position since the coup and since before the downfall of the Numayri regime has been to reject military coups and military regimes. Therefore the 'Ummah Party can discern no scope for cooperation with any military regime or with any military coup.

What the Islamic Front and its military regime in Khartoum are trying to do is to mislead internal and external public opinion and create confusion among the political forces opposing the regime so that it can emerge from the isolation that the opposition is imposing at home and abroad. The regime is trying to use some individuals who were dropped from the leaderships of these parties by appointing them to leading posts and [word indistinct] speak for these parties on regional and international forums and disseminate rumors to cause confusion.

However, I stress that the 'Ummah Party's position on this matter is frank and clear. It was declared in a memorandum presented by 'Ummah Party President al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the military council on 3 July, three or four days after the coup. Then there were the numerous party positions adopted by virtue of its efforts within the national alliance to formulate the charter and unify the opposition forces. Then there was the alliance formed between it and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and the positions the party began to adopt since that time in opposing and resisting this regime.

Regarding the Islamic Front, we dealt with it within the framework of democracy, accepting the Sudanese people's decision in the last elections. Prior to that, however, when the Islamic Front sided with Ja'far Numayri's regime and cooperated with it, we stood against the Front and fought it by various means. Now that it has betrayed democracy, chosen the military path for ruling Sudan, and is imposing its opinions on others, we are fighting it and opposing it with all force and vigor to restore democratic life to Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Arman] The SPLA/SPLM has been talking [word indistinct] about restructuring the government and the army. What does the movement mean by that, Dr. Mansur Khalid (former foreign minister who joined the SPLA in May 1985]?

[Khalid] Thank you, Brother Yasir. In reality, the movement has always been talking, especially now as an integral part of the NDA. It is talking about establishing democracy and not about restoring democracy in the sense that the movement is striving to set up a new democracy, considering that what it was living under in Sudan was a democratic system in name but not in substance. This is the concept of the movement.

Naturally when the movement says this, it does not deny that there are forms of democratic rule and democratic modes and practices, but it supposes that democracy should initially be based on a national concord on fundamentals, particularly if there is a kind of cleavage in society, a cleavage that leads to brothers bearing arms against brothers. This new concept of democracy was heralded by the movement in its call for holding a national constitutional conference to discuss all these issues. The call was issued in 1984, but it became the property of all the political forces when the Koka Dam declaration was issued and adopted by all the forces. People should remember that the Koka Dam declaration begins by talking about the commitment of its signatories, including the SPLM, to democracy. The declaration of the peace initiative agreement in November also gives emphasis to the principle of democracy with regard to the issue of democracy.

Concerning restructuring the army, we must view this within the framework of restructuring the administration. The phrase, restructuring the administration is actually used [words indistinct] as a substitute for the submission that says that the idea now is participation in the administration; that is to say the movement's participation in the existing administration in its existing form. When you restructure the administration you must restructure the institution that is at the head of all institutions, and this is the army. [passage omitted]

Libyans Reportedly Train in Red Sea Province

EA2810210690 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Reports from Sudan say the government of the National Front Camp [as heard] is training 64 Libyan Muslim Brothers in the East Sudan base in (Kirsaf) Area near Arkawit [in the Red Sea Province]. [Words indistinct] a large number of fundamentalists from various Arab states to carry out sabotage ranging from assassinations to urban warfare and explosions in those states. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi attacked the Sudanese National Front during his recent visit to Sudan. He described them as fossilized, backward, and outdated. He said the Muslim brothers in Sudan resemble the Communists in Libya: They have no existence or weight.

Tunisia

Islamic Movement Demands Release of Spokesman

LD2710194290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The Islamic Movement has hitherto maintained its silence despite the Tunisian authorities' tightening of the noose around the necks of the Islamists. However, the Islamists broke their silence when another group of them, headed by the official spokesman of the fundamentalist opposition, were arrested. The Islamists responded by addressing a warning to the government. Here are the details:

Following the announcement of the arrest of the spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in Tunisia, the Islamic Movement, which is proscribed in Tunisia, today denounced the Tunisian authorities for violating human rights by arresting the spokesman of the Islamic Movement. It demanded the immediate release of the spokesman and his companions.

The Islamic Movement reiterated that the Tunisian Government's actions against the leaders and followers of the Islamic Movement will complicate the situation in Tunisia, which is living in a tense political climate.

The spokesman for the Fundamentalist Revival Movement was arrested yesterday with a number of his followers at the end of a meeting they held in Tunis.

It is recalled that, since the beginning of this month, over 70 strugglers and cadres of the Tunisian Islamic Movement have sentenced to imprisonment on charges of demonstrating and clashing with the police.

President Ben Ali Appoints Officials

LD2810104890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has issued the following announcement: The president of the Republic, Zayn el-Abidine Ben Ali, has decided to make the following appointments:

Slaheddine Baly as president of the Constitutional Council; Abdelaziz Ben Dhia as adviser to the president of the republic; Mohamed ennabe as adviser to the president of the republic; and Hammadi El-Khouini, secretary of state attached to the foreign minister in charge of Maghreb affairs.

Bahrain

Heir Apparent Reassures Fahd on Amir's Health

JN2510203490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 25 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Heir Apparent Prince Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, this evening received a telephone call from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, inquiring about the health of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain.

His highness the heir apparent reassured the custodian of the two holy mosques about the health of his highness the amir of Bahrain, thanking him for his concern. They also talked about the distinguished relations between the two sisterly countries and the latest Gulf developments, in addition to Arab and Islamic issues.

Prime Minister Receives Djibouti Foreign Minister

JN2510181890 Manama WAKH in English 1542 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 25 (GNA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received here today Djibouti's Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah and his accompanying delegation. The Djibouti's minister handed over Shaykh Khalifah a written message addressed to H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, from President Gouled Hassan of Djibouti.

The message dealt with means of promoting bilateral relations and the latest developments in Gulf region in the light of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The meeting exchanged views on means of promoting bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various current Arab and African issues.

Kuwait

Resistance Claims Liquidation of Iraqi Official

LD2710202590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1906 GMT 27 Oct 90

[From the 'State of Kuwait Television Message']

[Text] The 25 February Group, which belongs to the Kuwaiti National Resistance Movement, has carried out—in collaboration with Baghdad free men—an operation in the heart of Baghdad, in Karradat Miryam district near al-Nahrayn restaurant, by liquidating Majid Khalaf, official in charge of the Ba'th branch in the district, who is considered one of Saddam Husayn's staunchest supporters.

Oman

Mubarak Asserts Gulf Defense System Needed

NC2510215990 Cairo PANA in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 25 Oct (PANA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today, Thursday, described his tour of four Arab countries as successful and said that he agreed with the leaders of these countries on the need to avoid war and uphold the supremacy of the law.

President Mubarak added that no one has the right to change the system of government in another country. He made it clear that there is no going back in calling on Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government to power in that country.

President Mubarak said that only the Kuwaiti people are entitled to change their leaders, if they so desire, and that no outsider has the right to interfere in their affairs.

President Mubarak told the Egyptian journalists accompanying him on his tour that the Gulf leaders are examining the situation carefully in order to find an Arab solution of the crisis.

President Mubarak said that action is needed to achieve an Arab defense system to protect the Gulf region in case of any future threat and to avoid foreign intervention except for the supply of weapons.

The Egyptian president said that he told the leaders of the countries he visited that Egypt is ready to cooperate with them in any plan to defend the region.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Rejects 'Misrepresentation' of Gulf Position

JN2610170490 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Kingdom's Position Irreversible"]

[Text] Some news media slant official statements so as to suit their own line of policy.

Predicated on self-respect, and championing the causes of justice, regional security, and global peace, the Kingdom's policies have been characteristically consistent; hence, the Kingdom's public, unambiguous condemnation of the reprehensible occupation of Kuwait, and its abidance by pertinent resolutions of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the UN Security Council. And hence the Kingdom's demand for an immediate, unconditional withdrawal of the forces of invasion from Kuwait and the reinstitution of its legitimate government; the pullback of the Iraqi forces massed at the Kingdom's borders; and guarantees that the ruler of Iraq will not repeat his aggression on any other Gulf Arab state.

The policy principles underlying the Kingdom's stand on the Gulf crisis have been made amply clear by the custodian of the two holy mosques; and there can be no question of flexibility or compromise on any one of these. Any other interpretation of the Kingdom's stand on the issue amounts to unacceptable misrepresentation.

The Kingdom is unyieldingly and unambiguously opposed to Iraq's oppressive aggression on Kuwait. Whatever interpretation runs counter to the Kingdom's declared position is to be dismissed as ill-intentioned and unsound.

The clear remarks of the custodian of the two holy mosques should have settled the issue.

Saddam Dismisses Al-Jabali as Oil Minister

JN2810193390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1908 GMT 28 Oct 90

["Text" of presidential decrees dated 28 October relieving oil minister of post and appointing acting oil minister]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree No. 321.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, minister of oil, shall be relieved of his post. The ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 9 Rabi' Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 28 October 1990.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Presidential decree No. 322.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, shall assume the post of acting oil minister. The ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 9 Rabi' Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 28 October 1990.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Cancels Oil Rationing

JN2810194990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn this evening chaired a joint meeting of oil experts and Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization experts. His excellency inquired about and familiarized himself with the details of automobile fuel. It appeared from the dialogue and discussions that the Oil Ministry has based the rationing on the wrong information that some solvents used in the production of gasoline, and which are imported from abroad, are sufficient for a certain period of rationing. But it appeared that with our stock of solvents, the time can be increased to more than twice the period estimated by the Oil Ministry without rationing, and that the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization can manufacture all our needs in these solvents. Experts and scientists of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization had drawn attention to the mistake of the Oil Ministry due to its miscalculations and misinformation that some solvents imported from outside Iraq could not be manufactured locally.

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered that rationing be canceled as of today. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister. It was also attended by Information and Culture Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi, and Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan.

Primakov Visits Baghdad, Stresses Peace

Arrives 27 Oct

JN2710172790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, personal envoy to leader President Saddam Husayn from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, member of the Soviet Presidium, and adviser to the Soviet president, arrived in Baghdad this evening.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the Soviet envoy said that his visit to Iraq is part of consultations and exchange of views with the Iraqi leadership on developments in the Gulf area, stressing that the Soviet Union is eager to end the Gulf crisis through peaceful means. He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN2810195290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Yevgeniy Primakov, personal envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. They exchanged views on the situation in the region and discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

'Arafat Arrives on Visit

JN2810195590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit of several days to fraternal Iraq.

Primakov Meets 'Arafat

JN2910082090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov has ended his visit to Iraq after holding extensive talks with President Saddam Husayn and Mr. Tariq 'Aziz. He also held a two-hour meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Primakov explained the results of his political contacts in several world and Arab capitals which he carried out following his first visit to Baghdad. He also reviewed the efforts to achieve a political settlement of the Gulf crisis, a settlement that will first rule out the possibility of war and second secure the linkage of all the region's crises.

PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who participated in the Palestinian-Soviet meeting, told our radio that Primakov sensed during his contacts in the various capitals that there is an inclination toward attaining a political solution that rules out the possibility of war, despite the fact that there is no change in the U.S. stand which continues to reject the idea of linkage among the region's causes. Commenting on the results of the talks, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the information the Soviet envoy has put forth shows that the United States is responsbile for the failure of the peace opportunities which started to emerge, particularly after the progress registered by the French and Soviet stands.

Delivers Message to Saddam

JN2810130290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received Yevgeniy Primakov, personal envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, member of the Presidential Council, and adviser to the Soviet president.

Primakov conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on relations between the two friendly countries, the situation in the region, and the results of the tour he made to a number of capitals following his earlier visit to the region.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Robert Markarian, head of Primakov's office; and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

No Agreement Reportedly Reached

JN2910081290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0702 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Soviet Envoy Yevgeniy Primakov left Baghdad for Saudi Arabia. He will visit Cairo later on for the third time since he started his mediation.

A spokesman for the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad has stated that the two sides have not reached any agreement in two days of talks and that even the second meeting with President Saddam Husayn has been cancelled.

Possible Departure of French Hostages Reported

NC2610163190 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 26 (AFP)—French nationals could get their exit permits Saturday and leave Iraq on Sunday, a source close to the French Embassy here said here Friday.

"If all goes well," and all the exit permits are delivered Saturday the departure of some 330 French nationals "could take place Sunday," the source said.

The French Embassy has been informed that immigration authorities in Baghdad received instructions to deliver exit permits for the French after the Iraqi parliament approved their departure.

Also on Friday, France's charge d'affaires, Andre Janier, met in Baghdad with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz for talks that focused on the Gulf crisis, Iraqi officials reported, without giving details.

Earlier in Paris, a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry said that preparations for the return of the French nationals were going ahead normally.

But spokesman Daniel Bernard said it was "premature" to name a date for the return although France expected this to be "by the end of the weekend."

Gathering the French nationals together and transferring them to Baghdad was continuing "without any particular problems," including the estimated 70 still in Kuwait, he said.

Iraq on Wednesday approved a proposal by President Saddam Husayn to allow the French return home in what the Iraqi leader said would confirm his country's "friendship" with France.

Engineer Says Demarcation Line Drawn in Kuwait

AU2610144990 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1200 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Marcel Pott report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn has apparently increased the strength of Iraqi troops in occupied Kuwait during the past few weeks. Saddam Husayn is believed to have over 400,000 men deployed in Kuwait and in neighboring southern Iraq, who are apparently also equipped for a war with chemical weapons. The Iraqi dictator has repeatedly threatened that he will use his chemical weapons arsenal in the event of an attack by the multinational armed forces. This threat must be taken seriously, as the former British Premier Edward Heath also stressed after a meeting with Saddam Husayn in Baghdad.

Baghdad has meanwhile established a demarcation line across occupied Kuwait, made of concrete and barbed wire. According to a report by an Arab engineer who returned from the emirate, the line runs along the new southern border of the Iraqi al-Basrah Province, whose territory has been enlarged by about 40 percent of Kuwaiti territory. The eyewitness also reported that Iraq has planted blasting charges at about 300 of the total of 1,000 oil wells in Kuwait in order to prevent the multinational armed forces from attacking Iraq. [passage omitted]

Shakir Reportedly Dismissed for Opposing Invasion

JN2710190690 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 15

[Text] The Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH has cited Iraqi sources, which the paper described as reliable, as saying that the decision issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 18 September to accept the resignation of RCC member Sa'dun Shakir on health grounds conceals the real reason behind the dismissal of a man who assumed a number of important positions in the Iraqi regime.

These sources said Sa'dun Shakir committed a "grave mistake that could not be forgiven" by the Iraqi president when he called for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait so that Iraq would not lose Arab support and face serious difficulties with the Western states!

The sources pointed out that Sa'dun Shakir based his opinion, which he voiced during one of the RCC meetings, on his strong and longstanding relations with the Saudi leaders. He was chosen by President Saddam Husayn a few years ago to act as the link between Baghdad and Riyadh.

The sources stressed that Saddam thought Sa'dun Shakir's proposal would divide the RCC and hence weaken its ability to make decisions amid these difficult circumstances. Saddam also considered Sa'dun Shakir weak and defeatist, and, therefore, unfit to remain in the RCC, especially amid these critical circumstances. The sources added that certain forces within the RCC had seized the opportunity to hurt Sa'dun Shakir with the aim of getting rid of and destroying him.

The Iraqi sources told AL-RAYAH that if Sa'dun Shakir was indeed having medical problems, the fact would not have been officially announced because the Iraqi regime takes interest in keeping such news secret. The Iraqi president also takes care to keep those who are close to him and whom he can trust in their positions regardless of their medical condition. RCC Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim is still in his post despite the fact that he has cancer. The sources explained that if Sa'dun Shakir was indeed having medical problems, he would have been sent abroad for treatment or admitted into one of the Baghdad hospitals. This has not been done.

The sources said the reports saying Sa'dun Shakir had been executed are untrue. He was put under house arrest and denied visitors of any kind. The sources pointed out that the strong and longstanding relation between Saddam and Sa'dun saved the latter from being executed as was the case with the other leaders who differed with Saddam.

The sources also explained that Sa'dun Shakir was the man who rescued Saddam Husayn and arranged his escape from prison during the era of the late President 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arif in the sixties. In the seventies he helped set up a strong intelligence network and then became interior minister. However, he was dismissed from this post after failing to prevent a series of explosions in downtown Baghdad. His status began to decline afterward despite the fact that he remained in the RCC, the sources added.

The sources did not rule out the possibility that Sa'dun Shakir will be executed to prevent the secrets he knows from coming out in public.

UNESCO Representative Criticizes Resolution

JN2610175190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Paris, 25 Oct (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative and member of the UNESCO Executive Board rebutted at last night's session all the allegations and lies presented by the representatives of Qatar, Egypt, and Pakistan in the draft resolution accusing Iraq of violating human rights, closing schools, and stealing antiquities in the Governorate of Kuwait. He also denounced attempts to force resolutions that have political, economic, and trade aspects on UNESCO, which has educational, cultural, and scientific objectives.

The Iraqi representative noted that the Western countries, particularly the United States—despite its withdrawal from UNESCO—which support this draft resolution, have always fought any indication or implication of Israeli aggression and occupation of the Arab territory under the pretext that this is not within the powers of UNESCO. It has also refused, since 1967, to cancel the word "condemnation" from the UNESCO dictionary for the sake of the Zionist entity. Meanwhile, they want today to use the UNESCO platform to attack and ridicule Iraq, as well as condemn it with fabricated pretexts and matters of a political nature that are not within the realm of UNESCO.

Iraq's representative wondered about the objectives of condemning Iraq. He said that schools have been open since the beginning of this month; that there is great response by students and teachers to attend school; that the contents of the Kuwait museum are available and safeguarded, and that these contents along with those of other Iraqi museums are protected in safe places in anticipation of a U.S.-Zionist aggression. He said that it is ridiculous to speak about an alleged Iraqi aggression against an alleged Kuwaiti identity, especially since there is only one cultural identity, namely the Iraqi cultural identity, which is, at the same time, an Arab identity. He added that the history of the Governorate of Kuwait has always been the history of Iraq and the Al-Basrah Governorate, and that this applies to dialects, tribes, traditions, social values, and arts. He said that political systems, flags, and currencies are not part of the identification of peoples' cultural identities. [passage omitted]

Iraq's permanent representative then discussed the clauses of the draft resolution. He pointed out that they are illegal from several angles, and that they are not within the powers of UNESCO. He said that the objective of this resolution is to take political revenge against

Iraq, and not to serve any educational or cultural objectives. He added that while voices calling for a peaceful solution are increasing outside UNESCO, this draft resolution constitutes a war logic, and that it is painful and astonishing that it does not include a single statement on peace.

He stressed that the Western states have exerted immense pressure on the board's member states to force them to adopt this resolution against Iraq, and that many of these member states have recently admitted that this Iraqi stand is political, that the UNESCO has nothing to do with it, and that they have received instructions from their governments to support this resolution.

U.S. Buildup Result of 'Strangling Impasse'

JN2910105790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers are unanimous that the U.S. military escalation in the Gulf is an expression of the strangling impasse in which the United States has placed itself rather than an expression of strength and coherence. Iraqi newspapers stressed in their editorials that the Iraqis under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn are fully prepared to fight the invaders and crush their despotic concentrations.

AL-THAWRAH says that if Bush did not learn from Vietnam we are fully confident that he will learn many lessons from his defeat at the hands of Iraq, but it will be too late.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the U.S. Administration resorted to military escalation, which was not a surprise, and in an attention- getting way, because it found itself facing the collapse of its aggressive strategy in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. This collapse is not only seen in the growing international desire for peace, but also in clear cracks that have begun to appear in the Western alliance established by the U.S. Administration, despite its eagerness to maintain its coherence.

AL-THAWRAH also notes the anti-war protest in America and the exposure of the lies used by Bush to justify his invasion of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and to prepare for launching aggression against Iraq.

The Iraqi paper ridicules the methods of threats and the announcement on increasing the military buildup. The paper says: When the American President resorts to threats once again and repeats the saying that the buildup is very serious, he only deludes himself and scares his collapsing agents such as Husni and the betrayer of the two holy mosques.

AL-THAWRAH adds: We say to Bush once again that before they reinforce their troops we are very well prepared to respond to any reckless adventure they embark on. Iraq is not unaware of their plans and preparations.

AL-QADISIYAH, the newspaper of the Defense Ministry, concentrates on the need to prepare the appropriate and sound atmosphere for any peaceful move or solution. The paper says: We suppose in advance that any peaceful move or solution will stem from the spirit and content of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. This initiative represents—as admitted by all fair and honest quarters in the world—the peak of reality and international legitimacy to achieve lasting and just peaceful solutions to all issues in the region.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the first principle for creating an appropriate atmosphere for peace is the evacuation and departure of all foreign invasion forces—particularly the American forces—from the region.

AL-QADISIYAH criticizes Washington's and London's positions on the international consensus to tackle the problems of the region within a comprehensive integral framework. The paper adds that American intransigence expressed by Bush and his follower Thatcher confirms their disregard for peace and the international community and their contempt for all other forces in the world.

The Iraqi paper cites to this effect President Saddam Husayn's analysis of the aggressive inclination stemming from Washington. He said: America is the main cause of everything that is taking place in the world, not only because it is a superpower that is trying to deal unilaterally with the world, but also because of its clear hostility and a policy that is based on enslaving people, stealing their wealth, and controlling their political, social, and economic decisions.

AL-QADISIYAH draws the attention of the world and its peace- loving forces to the fact that American hostility might prompt Bush—with encouragement from Thatcher and the traitors of the Arab nation—to embark on the adventure of war now that its military presence has become controversial in the world and is condemned by the world.

AL-'IRAQ says in its editorial that Iraq—through its peaceful initiatives and positions—expressed its real concern about the future of the region and mankind. Bush and Thatcher should bear this in mind in particular. Otherwise, the United States and those who stand with it in the trench of aggression against Iraq, the Arabs, and Muslims will bear the consequences and responsibility.

The paper warns those who are trying to subjugate Iraq and divert it from holy jihad. It says they should review their mistaken calculations before it is too late for them, their agents, and for their supporters everywhere.

AL-'IRAQ strongly attacks the United States and Britain, which have continued to play the tune of armed aggression against Iraq, ignoring the direct dangers of such an aggression. Meanwhile, world public opinion and many international quarters are intensifying their calls for diplomatic solutions to the situation in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the statements made by American officials against Iraq—prompted by the British Government—show the hysteria prevailing in the world superpower and the British power.

The paper mentions the megalomania of those aggressive people in Washington and Tel Aviv. It says: These statements stem from the facts behind their question: Why does Iraq have the right to stand up to the forces that can control the fate of the world while in the past Iraq was a British colony?

AL-JUMHURIYAH throws light on the aggressive intentions of the master of the White House, saying that Bush—the day before yesterday—spoke about the hope to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. However, he still sticks to his opinion on the importance of subjugating Iraq to American hegemony.

Paper Says Nation Wages Battle for 'Existence'

JN2810103790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—The newsaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that Iraq is waging a battle against the foreign presence in the Arabian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula in defense of itself, its security, and the peoples of the Third World who are aspiring to secure their livelihood and dignity.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the current confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.-led buildup of aggression and occupation is not a battle limited in its objectives and impact; neither is it a conflict between two parties whose results depend on their fate and strength only. Truly, it is the first confrontation between the Arabs and the peoples of the Third World on the one hand and the United States on the other. The paper notes that the United States, by virtue of its imperialist program, the end of the cold war, and the retreat of the influencing force of the USSR, has become a power on the loose for which there is no restraint or deterrence. Thus, its only function is to make decisions and order others to obey.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If the painful facts of this new stage of human life have cast their shadows on the peoples of the world and their causes, the U.S. political and military aggressive military position in the so-called Gulf crisis has given an ugly example of the constant U.S. hegemony schemes and the level to which Washington could stoop in its illegitimate endeavor to crush peoples' will and impose its control by force on the nation's will and wealth. For, the Bush administration has not refrained from blatant military intervention, imposing its aggressive will on the Security Council by the power of political pressure, terrorism, threats, and ugly exploitation of the international situation, to the extent that it has revealed its ambitions in taking a unilateral hold of international decisionmaking under the banner of the new international order.

The paper goes on to say: Proceeding from the above, the Bush administration only considers its illegitimate interests, and oil, therefore, becomes dearer than the blood of the Americans and more important than the destiny of the Arab nation. Consequently, the credit of the Bush administration in the region becomes confined to a handful of hired agents and backward, corrupt rulers. This is natural, however, because the extension of occupation is its agents and spies. It is natural, on the other hand, for all the masses of the nation, its freemen, and struggling forces to become the depth and extension of Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the confrontation which has started since August 2 is the nation's battle for its existence, rights, and legitimate ambitions for unity and will.

The paper adds: What is happening in our region and on our borders has attracted the attention of the peoples of the Third World who know that their destiny in the post-cold war era is now under discussion, because the foundations of nonalignment yielded during the fifties and sixties no longer exist.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH warns aggressors of the destiny awaiting them if they dare attack Iraq. What is going to happen militarily if Bush undertakes the adventure is that he, his buildup, allies, and tools, will be thrown into the furnace. This will reduce Bush to the position of an old lion sitting next to the worn-out British lion, together recalling their bitter memories.

Jordan Cites Saddam Message to Mitterrand

JN2610190990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] A private French television network has cited Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as saying that he is ready to discuss the Middle East problems, including the problem of Kuwait.

The network added that the Iraqi president addressed a message to the French president in which he expressed hope that President Mitterrand would not spare any efforts to find a solution to all the problems of the region in accordance with the 12 August initiative.

The network said President Saddam Husayn's message came prior to the meeting scheduled to take place in Paris within the next two days between the French and Soviet presidents.

The network also cited President Saddam as saying: You will find out that Iraq is ready from now on to respond positively to the international community in order to come up with a peaceful solution.

Commentary Criticizes Bush on Rights Issues

LD2210042790 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Human rights and civilized values are among the numbered catchwords in American code of ethics. These terms are (?at) the tip of the American President's tounge whenever he wants to stick the level of the human rights abuse on any state, anything, which is more often than not subjected to a president's whim.

United States President Bush has left no stone unturned to dig up as many Iraqi atrocities as he wishes. He did not even bother to question their authenticity. He had no scruples about quoting a disillusioned ex-Kuwaiti minister of heeding a whisper by the [word indistinct] of Kuwait about babies deprived of their incubators and children shot before their parents.

Paradoxically, Bush cited examples involving children because he knows that they are the best carriers of his message to people's minds and hearts. But in the heat of his frenzy, he readily forced the blockade that has deprived millions of Iraqi children of their milk, the most essential commodity to their lives.

President Bush has prevented milk, food, and medicine reaching Iraqi children. With this move Bush is planning death from starvation of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children. He is doing this in cold blood and in a clear contradiction of what he preaches.

Thus Bush once talks about democracy and freedom while in fact he is the most one [as heard] who violates not only democracy and freedom but the whole human rights and values. And what proves that? Mr. Bush is careful not to annoy his Israeli friends who have defied international laws and norms when they refused to open their nuclear installations for inspection by specialized bodies. And he is so keen on Israel not to be condemned by the United Nations body while it daily commits horrible crimes against Palestinians.

Such unjust and prejudiced behavior by America and Western world must be curbed and condemned by mankind as a whole because such United States policy will jeopardize the world.

Official Says Blockade Increasing Determination

JN2710112690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 90 p 19

[Text] Baghdad—PETRA—Dr. Misbah al-Khayru, chief expert at the Iraqi Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, has said that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq will increase the Iraqi people's determination and belief to continue the struggle for just Arab causes. In a statement to THE JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, he added that this blockade will result in depriving the Iraqi children of food and medicine, which contradicts all humanitarian values. He noted that international laws and standards ban the use of blockade, particularly against children.

The Iraqi official said that the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs had supplied food and milk to the children in Iraq, but after the blockade, it stopped doing so. He added that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq prevented the ministry from rendering medical services and offering food to the children. This, he said, is contrary to the convention on the rights of children endorsed by the international community in 1989.

Dr. al-Khayru stated that this convention calls for the need to provide children with food and clothing and prohibits depriving them of food and medicine as a result of international disputes and wars. He noted that the blockade is considered a blatant violation of the Declaration on Child's Rights of 1959, which calls for providing children with the food and medical care needed for children's growth.

An Iraqi delegation representing Iraqi popular and vocational unions and organizations left Baghdad yesterday on an Arab tour to Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen. The delegation will meet, during the visit, with popular and vocational organizations in the four countries to discuss the new developments in the Arabian Gulf.

Opposition Statement on Shortages in Nation

NC2010192190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Oct 90

[Text] A statement by the Iraqi national salvation committees [lijan al-inqadh al-wataniyah al-'iraqiyah], which are opposed to the Saddam Husayn regime, reveals that industry in Iraqi has come to an almost complete standstill. The statement adds that cement factories have halted operations due to shortages of raw materials, spare parts, and manpower. As a result of this stoppage, more than a million workers have lost their jobs at a time when living conditions are deteriorating.

The statement by the Iraqi national salvation committees adds that the Iraqi oil industry sector, particularly the oil refineries in northern Iraq, as well as water desalination stations, have begun facing shortages of chemicals and raw materials. Meanwhile, the oilfields in southern Iraqi have been affected by the departure of Soviet experts.

Editor Questions Mubarak's Talk of Arab Solution

JN2810204990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—Commenting on the news conference held today by Husni, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY Arab affairs editor writes: It would seem that agent Husni cannot but imitate his master, Bush, in everything. He repeats his guardian's expressions, vocabulary, and quotes, and he acts exactly as Bush does. If Bush wants to play the role of international policeman, Husni would like to do the same at the regional level. In this, he proceeds from the inferiority complex engraved in him and the small agents like him.

Husni still talks as though he were able to run the affairs of the Arab nation and find solutions to its problems while unable to solve Egypt's major or minor problems.

He thinks he owns the decision of war and peace. He talks about a summit meeting he can hold, about heads of states he can send to other states, about forces he can dispatch to decide military situations, and about regional security systems he can control. But the fact is that he can do nothing of this.

Husni deludes himself into thinking that he can acquit himself of agentry to the United States by talking about the Arab solution and claiming that he supports this solution. But he was the one who obstructed this solution through his petty maneuvers, and the one who gave a shabby Arab cover for the U.S. intervention in and occupation of the region. It is now very well known that he hindered the five-way summit that was scheduled to take place on 5 August—and he himself admitted this today—and rushed to convene the infamous Cairo meeting through which he, in coordination with his accomplice, the betrayer of the two holy mosques, passed the aggressive U.S. scheme.

Husni does not feel shame when he claims that he is eager for a peaceful solution and continues to instigate and push things toward a military solution and declares despair over the possibility of a peaceful solution.

Concluding, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY Arab affairs editor says: But let Husni know that hiding behind Bush's shadow will never make him big, nor will it give him the weight he is lacking or the role he is looking for. This hiding will not save him from the wrath of the great people of Egypt and the valiant Egyptian Army, which is known for its national and pan-Arab struggle and its confrontation of agents and traitors. This army, undoubtedly, refuses to be used in the U.S. aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. Egypt has always been for the Arabs, and its people and army have always been for the Arabs. For the scum disappears like froth cast out, while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [Koranic verse]

Nation Offers Repayment of Egyptian Dues in Oil

JN2810101590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—Iraq has reasserted its readiness to repay the dues of Egyptian brothers in full in Iraqi oil or any other commodity asked by the Egyptian side. Or, the Egyptian Government can repay the dues of Egyptian workers in Egyptian pounds and the sum will be counted as a foreign currency debt which Iraq will repay once the reasons which prevented direct repayment are gone.

This came in a statement made by a responsible source at the Ministry of Finance to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, in which he held the Egyptian regime responsible for the consequences of its rejection of this initiative.

The following is the text of the statement:

Iraq was eager during the past years to repay the dues of the wages remitted by the Egyptian brothers working in Iraq even in the most critical times when Iraq was in dire need of foreign currency to provide the necessary requirements of development, defense, and the citizen's needs which are imported from outside.

Iraq continued to repay these dues recently at the rate of $45 million monthly until the unjust resolution was issued by the U.S. Administration under the cover of the Security Council, to impose a comprehensive embargo on Iraq and to freeze its assets abroad. As a result of this, Iraq was unable to continue to repay these dues in cash.

A week after the decision of the comprehensive economic embargo on us was issued, and out of its respect for the principle of honoring its financial commitments and to protect the interests of Egyptian brothers, Iraq summoned the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad and offered him the country's readiness to repay these dues in Iraqi oil or any other commodity that is asked by the Egyptian side. The ambassador was asked to give us his government's reply to this suggestion.

The Husni regime, however, did not respond to this suggestion. Later, the ambassador was summoned again and we made the suggestion that his government continue to repay the dues of Egyptian workers in Egyptian pounds. The sum will be counted as a foreign currency debt, and Iraq will repay this debt once the reasons which warranted this action are resolved.

The agent Husni regime has preferred to pursue its treasonous approach. And, instead of responding to Iraq's initiative to deal with the dues of the Egyptian brothers, it preferred to continue to obey the orders of the U.S. Administration and to harm the interests of Egyptian workers, Iraq, and the Arab nation. Thus, it contented itself with announcing its rejection of this initiative through its sounding boards.

While declaring anew its readiness to repay the dues of the Egyptian brothers in full according to the suggestions mentioned above, Iraq reasserts at the same time that the agent Husni regime will be held responsible for the consequences of rejecting this initiative, after it has gone too far in harming the interests of Egyptian brothers, Egypt, Iraq, and the Arab nation; has given precedence to U.S. and British interests over the interests of its people and the Arab nation; and fallen into the quagmire of treason by standing in the front line of military confrontation against great Iraq—the Iraq of Arabism and peace.

Saddam Congratulates Ozal on National Day

JN2910111290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Turkish President Turgut Ozal on his country's national day. In his congratulatory cable, the president wished Ozal good health and happiness, the friendly Turkish people progress and prosperity, and the development and promotion of friendly relations between the two peoples in the interest of the two countries.

Saddam Receives Jordan's Badran, King's Message

JN2710121290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Jordanian Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. Mudar Badran conveyed to his excellency a written message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of sisterly Jordan on the strong relations between the two sisterly countries and current developments in the region.

President Saddam Husayn asked Mudar Badran to convey his excellency's heartfelt fraternal regards to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal and his appreciation for sisterly Jordan—king, government, and people—for their brave pan-Arab positions.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; and RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister.

Ramadan Meets With Greek PASOK Delegation

Discusses 'Guests'

JN2810190090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, today received the Greek PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] delegation of former Greek Foreign Minister Karlos Papoulias and PASOK Secretary General Akis Tsokhatzopoulos. During the meeting, the RCC member and first deputy prime minister received a written message for leader President Saddam Husayn from Andreas Papandreou, leader of PASOK and former prime minister. The message contained greetings to his excellency the leader president, and broached the PASOK position on developments in the Arabian Gulf area, its struggle for peace, and its rejection of threats to use military force.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the PASOK delegation to convey leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to Papandreou and to tell him of his pride and that of the Iraqi leadership and people in the PASOK's position on peace. He also referred to the good and historical relations between Iraq and Greece, stressing the importance of the Greek Government's attention to its own interests and its future relations with the Arabs, as well as the need for the Greek Government not to be drawn into the U.S. policy to tie other states to its own interest.

He then touched on the care enjoyed by Iraq's foreign guests, stressing that hosting them is a humanitarian Iraqi contribution to bringing about peace.

The PASOK delegation said that flexing the military muscle will not serve peace, will further complicate the situation in the Arabian Gulf, and proves America's unwillingness to bring about peace. The delegation also explained that America's tendency to pursue Security Council resolutions on the Arabian Gulf and neglect resolutions on other international problems in Palestine, Lebanon, and Cyprus is an encroachment on the principles of international legitimacy based on right, justice, and equality. The delegation also declared that it will continue to perform its duty toward peace in cooperation with other parties in Greece and abroad, pointing out that world public opinion is opposing American policy through gatherings and demonstrations all over the world.

Delegation Departs 28 Oct

JN2910113890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2008 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—The Greek peace messengers delegation led by Akis Tsokhatzopoulos, secretary general of PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement], MP and former deputy prime minister and interior minister, left Baghdad today, ending a five-day visit to Iraq.

Tsokhatzopoulos said that during his visit, he held talks with Iraqi officials and they exchanged views on regional developments.

PASOK is strongly opposed to the dispatch of Greek forces to the Arab region and to the foreign forces overflying Greece. He indicated that when PASOK led the Government, it stipulated as a condition for renewing the American bases agreement that they be not used for attack against Arab states.

Speaker Receives Swedish Muslim Delegation

JN2710172290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Oct (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received the delegation of Swedish Muslims led by Haytham Rahman, chairman of the Muslim Students Federation in the Scandinavian countries and the imam of the Islamic League in Sweden.

The National Assembly speaker declared that the Iraqi people believe in peace as a policy and have a sincere desire to reach a solution to all the region's problems through peaceful means and to ward off the specter of war and the possible destructive results in the region.

For his part, Haytham Rahman praised Iraq's peace initiatives and its persistent efforts to reach peaceful solutions to all the region's problems. He described President Saddam Husayn's 12 August peace initiative as a real peace policy designed to save the world from the grave consequences of tension in this vital area of the world.

He also stressed the need for the departure of the invasion forces from the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and for purging the Kaaba and the prophet's tomb of the desecration of the aggressors.

Italian Humanitarian Mission Supports Nation

JN2710134990 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 27, INA—A purely humanitarian mission is behind a visit to Iraq by a delegation of Italian peace activists, according to a member of the team.

Comprising Aldo Businaro, Carlo Adamoli, Maria Grazis Fioravati, Maria Bernasconi, Ugo Bosetti and Ali Rashid [names as received], the delegation represents a national coordination committee of the families of the Italian guests in Iraq.

Delegation members told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that they express the desire of more than 70 per cent of the Italian population to end of war in the region.

They stressed that the Italian public opinion is for peace and against political trends that steer the world towards destructive war.

Known as peace messengers, the delegation's mission comes in conformity with President Saddam Husayn's initiative on August 12 which called for a comprehensive solution to all issues of the Middle East.

In Italy, the team was the inspiration force behind organising a 24-kilometre-long march in protest of the negative attitude of the Italian Government towards the present crisis. They were among some 100,000 Italians who launched a rally in support of peace in the Gulf.

Since their arrival, in Baghdad, the delegation made clear their support of Iraq. They handed over a letter to the Italian Embassy in Baghdad demanding the resignation of the Italian foreign minister for his pro-America policy and unjust stand ignoring the interests of the guests in Iraq.

They said that the families of the Italian guests, whose stay in Iraq is meant to avert war, have gone on a hunger strike protesting the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq. They believe that denying children their milk and the sick their medicine is an inhuman action. So, in a bid to foil the blockade, the visiting delegation brought three tons of food, including milk for Iraq children.

The national coordination committee of the families of the Italian guests in Iraq has launched a drive to send donations of staple food for Iraqi children and is trying to find means for sending the goods to Iraq.

On the deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, the delegation described it as a conspiracy aimed at spreading U.S. hegemony over Arab oil.

They said that the American intervention also aims at selling weapons to America's Arab allies in a bid to save the U.S. economy.

The team believes that the superpowers have failed to subdue the will of peoples especially during the last two decades. The Vietnam war affirm this fact. Hence, the U.S. and its lackey's aggression against Iraq will hardly achieve any victory. It is the time for all peace lovers to take the initiative," a member of the delegation said. [no beginning quote mark as received]

They said that other Italian delegations are to visit Baghdad during the next week to conduct their peace and fact-finding missions.

Minister Receives U.S. Peace Delegation

JN2610124290 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 26, INA—Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih last night met the American peace delegation headed by Douglas Hoster currently on a visit to Iraq.

During the meeting, the minister affirmed that steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their firm stand behind leadership of President Saddam Husayn would break the inhumane economic blockade being imposed on Iraq by the imperialist and Zionist circles.

Mr. Hoster voiced total solidarity with the Iraqi people and stand against the unjust blockade decision.

Mr. Hoster confirmed the joint desire of the Iraqi and American peoples for engineering peace in the region through the dialogue and driving the region and the world off the specter of war.

Summary of Zamir Commission Report

TA2610174790 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 26 Oct

["Summary" of the Zamir commission report on the 8 October events on Temple Mount, prepared by the Government Press Office and issued on 26 October]

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission expresses its deep sorrow over the loss of life on the Temple Mount, and conveys its sorrow to the families that lost loved ones. The Commission also expresses its sorrow over the injuries caused to civilians and police at the Western Wall Plaza and its vicinity and wishes a full recovery to the injured.

2. The Commission recommends that its conclusions be revealed in their entirety to the public and, therefore, has omitted from the report the evidence and the sources of its decisions and conclusions.

3. Despite its being a "commission of investigation" and not a commission of inquiry," the Commission was authorized by the Minister of Justice to "receive statements in writing and to warn the witnesses to tell the truth." The Commission also operated according to section 14 of the Inquiry Commission Law of 5729 (1968) and has decided that all testimony and material received will not serve as evidence in a legal proceeding, except for a criminal trial.

4. The Commission heard 124 witnesses, among them: the Minister of Police, the Mayor of Jerusalem, the Police Commissioner, the head of the GSS [Shin Bet], police and Border Patrol commanders, and also police officers and Border Patrol police. The Commission also heard a number of detainees, among them Faysal al-Husayni and Shaykh Muhammad Sa'id al-Jamal al-Rifa'i.

5. The Commission visited al-Maqasid Hospital and heard reports from doctors and the wounded, and also visited the Temple Mount and its vicinity a number of times.

6. The Commission was not requested to draw personal conclusions in the realm of civil, criminal or disciplinary responsibility of any of those involved in the events—and it is the opinion of the Commission that it has no authority to do so in accordance with the law. The objective of the Commission was to examine that which was demanded of it in its letter of appointment—it is not the purview of the Commission of Investigation to deal with or to recommend the drawing of personal conclusions by any one of those involved in the events. The conclusions of the Commission do not make reference to the actions or the malfeasance of a given individual. All resultant decisions and inferences—if any are made at all—to the Commission's conclusions with respect to individuals involved in the Temple Mount events of the October 8, 1990, will be determined by the competent authorities.

7. The Commission received written material from different sources including "Betzelem" [Israeli information center for human rights in the occupied territories], but the witnesses whose statements were attached to the "Betzelem" report refused to appear for questioning before the Commission. Appeals by the Commission to the High Muslim Council and the Waqf administration to meet with the Commission were refused.

8. The opinion of a medical expert, submitted to the Commission, regarding seven of the wounded admitted to al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem, determined that not a single one of them was struck from behind.

9. The Commission calls on the National Insurance Institute to clarify, as soon as possible, who among the wounded— who did not take an active part in the disturbances of public order on the Temple Mount—is eligible for benefits under the Victims of Hostile Action (Pensions) Law—5730 (1970).

CHAPTER 2: CONCLUSIONS AND INFERENCES

1. THE STATUS OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT

It is the opinion of the Commission that a special ministerial committee for Temple Mount affairs be established in cooperation with the Mayor of Jerusalem. This committee should design policy, direct preparations for various situations, decide and supervise the coordination between the parties involved in the security (or protection) of the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. This committee will consult religious leaders as is required by law.

2. CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT

A. The Muslim gathering on the Temple Mount exceeded the intended purpose of the site and the norms which a holy site oblige. The members of the Waqf knew that the High Court refused the "Temple Mount Faithful" petition to lay the cornerstone of the Third Temple, and did not respond to requests by Israel Police officers on the morning of the incident to calm the crowd. This, even after the fact that the police informed the Waqf that they would also prevent the "Temple Mount Faithful," and anyone else, from visiting the area, though such visits are allowed by law.

B. The incident itself began when, suddenly, violent and threatening calls were sounded on the speakers ("Allah Akbar," "Jihad," "Idhbah al-Yahud" [Slaughter the Jews]). Immediately afterwards, enormous amounts of rocks, construction materials and metal objects were thrown at Israeli policemen who were present at the site. Many in the incited, rioting mob threw stones and metal objects from a very short range, and some even wielded knives in their hands. The actions of the rioters, and certainly the inciters, constituted a threat to the lives of the police, the thousands of worshipers at the Western Wall and to themselves. This was a serious criminal offense committed by masses who were incited by preachers on loudspeakers, and this is what led to the tragic chain of events.

C. It is the opinion of the Commission that any criminal acts that may have been carried out during the course of the events should continue to be investigated. It is the opinion of the Commission that there is room for suspicion that a considerable percentage of the people gathered at the Temple Mount and their leaders apparently were involved in the obstruction of public order, causing harm to police and worshipers and endangering their lives.

3. USE OF FORCE BY THE POLICE

A. The Commission has reached the conclusion that the lives of the police on the Temple Mount were endangered, and that they feared for their lives, and for the lives of thousands of worshipers who were at the Western Wall. The firing of tear gas and rubber bullets by the police, which came following the massive barrage of stones and other objects, was intended to deter the rioters and to repel them from the vicinity of the Western Wall. In light of the injury of many of them, the police were forced to retreat from the Temple Mount through Moors' Gate, and the barrage continued over the Western Wall, the Moors' Gate and the Ophel Road.

B. The breaking into the Temple Mount came as a result of the continuation of the rioting and the barrage of stones, and of the fear for the lives of two police officers who remained caught in the Temple Mount police station. There was also a concern that the weapons and ammunition in the station would fall into the hands of the rioters. Due to a lack of communications, the police commanders did not know that the policemen trapped in the station succeeded to escape on their own.

C. The breaking (into the Temple Mount) was done while using tear gas grenades and live ammunition as the masses rained rocks and other materials on the police, which endangered their lives. The continuation of the storming of the police, which also done by masked assailants, required the police to attack with live ammunition. When the masses entered the mosques, the order was given to "cease fire."

D. Regarding the above, the Commission is of the opinion that following the breaking into the Moors' Gate, which was necessary to save the lives of the trapped officers and to prevent the falling of the ammunition into the hand of the rioters, the storming masses continued to attack the police with rocks and other dangerous instruments. The police used gas and rubber bullets and, in life-threatening instances, also used live ammunition at their attackers.

E. The Commission recommends that a separate, detailed investigation by an independent police officer appointed by the commander of the Border Police be conducted into the initiative taken by one of the Border Police platoon commanders at the Lions' Gate, without receiving a specific order. The conclusions of the investigation will be submitted to the minister of police and the police commissioner.

F. An ambulance was hit by gunfire in its windshield and side, with a nurse and the driver sustaining injuries. It was clarified to the Commission that the police did not see the ambulance which stood between the pillars of the entrance to the Al-Aqsa mosque. The recommendation to the National Insurance Institute given in Chapter 1 refers to these injuries.

G. There were no gas grenades or any other items thrown from the helicopter that flew over the Temple Mount, nor were any shots fired from it at the crowd.

4. THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SENIOR COMMAND LEVEL OF THE ISRAEL POLICE

The Commission criticizes the functioning of the senior command level of the police:

A. The police had advance information on the possibility of rioting. The method of thinking and attitudes of the Commander of the Southern District and of the Commander of the Jerusalem Region were routine and even mistaken. There was no consideration of the special sensitivity of the Temple Mount and there was no advance preparation for a wide variety of possible situations. The supervision concerned itself with one element only, "the laying of a cornerstone for the Third Temple," and, when that was cancelled, they took routine measures.

B. District and regional commanders did not take into account the accumulated influence of the intifadah, the environment created by terrorist elements and their attitude towards the Gulf crisis, and calls for incitement by the muezzin and the preachers on the Temple Mount on the Friday before the events. These phenomena required the presence of initiative and suspicion that did not exist in this case. The police, further, did not have files on preparations for possible contingencies and, therefore, they were not tested.

C. In the opinion of the Commission, the situation that was created on the Temple Mount required the presence of commanders, of the most senior levels, on the Temple Mount. The situation also required the presence of district and regional commanders and, as the situation intensified, there was room for the summoning of the commissioner. The activating of an emergency situation for the security of the Temple Mount, the setting up of a forward command post, the concentration of forces and the establishment of positions, could have deterred the frenzied masses from rioting.

Following other events, the command posts were not staffed by senior commanders, the communications between different points on the Mount did not function properly and neither the commissioner nor the minister of police were briefed early on regarding developments in the situation.

D. There are no sharp or uniform definitions regarding responsibility for command on the Mount. The Commission is of the opinion that the uniformity of command must be kept and that all the forces working in the Old City must report to the Old City command.

E. The Commander of the Border Police company that worked independently in the area felt it necessary to spread out the Border Police force above the Western Wall—this step was in accordance with the orders that he received.

F. In the opinion of the Commission:

1) An elite force must be permanently alloted to the Temple Mount and its vicinity to work under uniform supervision with defined jurisdictions and responsibilities.

2) A headquarters for incidents on the Temple Mount should be established that will report on events on the Mount and will be present at the time of the event.

3) Contingency plans must be prepared that will deal with possible situations and will formulate operative frameworks for dealing with any situation.

4) Reinforcements should be placed in close and immediate proximity and would be assigned to bolster the force during incidents.

5) The Commission recommends that the commander of the Old City police will be responsible for the preparation of forces and their testing, in order to ensure that they are prepared for action.

G. Criticism of the way in which the region functioned does not diminish the courage of the regional commander, his officers and policemen in the course of subduing the rioters.

5. INTELLIGENCE

A. Difficulties exist in the gathering of information, its analysis, in issuing warning and in assisting in preventing disruptions of public order. The Commission is of the opinion that a division of labor between the GSS and the police is basically correct and should not be changed.

B. The GSS has assumed upon itself the gathering of information on the organization of disruptions of order and the police has taken upon itself the gathering of information in the street, in connection to developments that are characterized as spontaneous.

C. In the incident on the Temple Mount, there was no lack of advance information: general warnings by the GSS, and, above all, there was clear information—the calls of the preachers, leaflets and the multiplicity of groups of masked assailants that called for gathering on the Temple Mount.

D. The mistake of the commissioner, the commander of the southern district and the commander of the Jerusalem region as in the evaluation of the information and in focussing on the assumption that, if the "laying of the cornerstone" could be prevented, everything would settle down peacefully—as in the past. A correct reading of the situation, given the change in circumstances and conditions, would have rendered possible the preventive deployment and preventative action that were demanded and necessary. Given this mistake, the police did not deploy its forces along the lines of past formats; a forward command post was not set up as it should have been and a deterrent force was not concentrated to intervene as is acceptable. This basic evaluation did not change, even when there was precise information on the number of people on the Temple Mount.

E. The GSS preparations were different than those of the police. The GSS made it clear that an unexpected accelerating factor would be liable to cause an explosion during a gathering under the circumstances which existed on the Temple Mount. The commission did not find basis for the existence of written warning by the GSS to the police with the same clarity as was presented by the GSS before the commission.

F. 1. The division of labor must be maintained between intelligence missions and any intelligence regarding the Temple Mount must be distributed to the police minister and the ministerial committee which will be established. This committee will discuss intelligence preparations if any exist.

2. The police must be allocated the tools and means to establish a "street intelligence" gathering network and to establish units which will operate within police framework and as part of district headquarters.

6. AUTHORITY WHICH WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED AND DETERRENT ACTIONS NOT TAKEN

A. The 10.10.90 [as received] was loaded with events and the police allocated forces and commanders to all. The commission proposes that events on the Temple Mount be viewed over a number of days.

B. "The Temple Mount Faithful"—The actions of this small group deviated from the accepted according to law but the matter cannot be solely dealt with from a legal and formal aspect. Moslems view this group as a provocative and threatening element which intends to drive them out of the Temple Mount. The Moslem leadership took advantage of the presence of this group in order to incite those gathered on the Temple Mount. The police should have been alert to this and should have approved escort for the group on another day. The police saw itself bound by the High Court decision, nevertheless, verification carried out by the commission reveals that there was no such obligation and it was possible to transfer the event to another day.

In the commission's opinion the police should consider limiting events on the Temple Mount, the Western Wall and in the Old City plaza which have a high probability of resulting in severe disturbances.

C. The prevention of gatherings on the Temple Mount which are liable to result in disturbances—Those who gathered on the Temple Mount offended the sanctity of the site and they apparently violated the law. From the start, they were called to a protest prohibited on the Temple Mount, the security of which lies with the State of Israel.

In the commission's opinion the police had the authority to close the Temple Mount gates and to prevent entry and gathering whose intent was unrest. The police also could have prevented the entry of suspicious elements—a step which has proved itself in the past. During the events the police could also have taken measures which could have prevented a deterioration—such as disconnecting the loudspeaker system which incited the mob. These steps were not taken mainly because of the assumption that order would return if the "Temple Mount Faithful" were not allowed to enter the Mount. The police tried unsuccessfully to shoot down the loudspeaker. In the commission's opinion this technical problem could have been solved in the past [as received] and all must be done to prevent future use of the loudspeaker for incitement. Had the police acted in such a manner, criticism would likely have been limited to the Moslem public and other hostile elements. Nevertheless, it is preferable to contend with such criticism than to reach the sad results of events on the Temple Mount, despite the fact that the blame and responsibility lies with the thousands of rioters who took advantage of the site in order to carry out disturbances.

D. BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE AREA OF THE OLD CITY

The national interest of the State of Israel and the special situation in the Old City require re-evaluation of what can or cannot be permitted in respect to gatherings and demonstrations which may lead to disturbances. The Commission recommends preventing gatherings for the purpose of demonstrations on the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, and throughout the Old City. The freedom of worship of all religions in their holy places should be preserved. Only official State events may be permitted in the vicinity of the Western Wall.

E. USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS

The use of live ammunition on the Temple Mount under the prevailing conditions was justified by the Commission. It is also clear that it is the policy of the police to use live ammunition only as a last resort, and only if lives are endangered. It is necessary to develop technological means whose efficiency would be greater than that of the use of gas and rubber bullets. The Commission emphasizes the immediate need to develop alternatives to the use of live ammunition. The Commission recommends the immediate establishment of a techno-defense crew that will evaluate possibilities for solving the problem of protecting the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. The ministerial committee will summarize and decide as soon as possible.

F. DIRECTION, FOLLOW UP AND SUPERVISION BY THE MINISTER OF POLICE

The minister of Police carries ministerial responsibility for the actions of the police. The Commission is aware of the existing law, and of the special position and responsibilities of the Police Commissioner. It is accepted that there is no room for the interference of the Minister of Police in the process of a criminal investigation, but in the topic of keeping order the active involvement of the minister is necessary to maintain his ministerial responsibility. The current structure of the police ministry lacks the means to do so, therefore it is urgently required to develop these means.

It is in the opinion of the Commission that there is a need to develop special staff operations which will serve the minister, enabling him to formulate policy, examine alternatives and maintain supervision. The Minister of Police must be involved in the matter of maintaining public order, while paying special attention to the Old City and the Holy sites.

CHAPTER 3: THE TEMPLE MOUNT FROM A LEGAL, HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Legal Situation

The Temple Mount lies under the sovereignty of the State of Israel and, therefore, it is subject to all the laws of the State. Following the Six-day War, Israeli sovereignty was extended to the eastern part of Jerusalem, including the Old City, in which the Temple Mount is situated. The extension of sovereignty was entailed in a Knesset law—the Amendment of the Law and Administrative Ordinance (5748/1948). Furthermore, in the Protection of the Holy Places Law (5767/1967), the freedom of access to the holy places, for all religions, is guaranteed. Paragraph 1 of this law, because of its importance, also appears in the Basic Law: Jerusalem-Capital of Israel, that was passed in 1980.

The Jews and the Temple Mount

The Temple Mount has been considered holy by Israel since the time of David. Even when the people had been uprooted from the land, its interest in the holy site was maintained. After the Jordanian conquest, in 1948, the Jordanian government did not allow free access to the site for Jews, even though it had been ensured in the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Jordan in 1948. Observant Jews are prohibited from entering the Temple Mount, according to the command of the sages of Israel and of the Chief Rabbis, and their prayers are held at the Western Wall. Non-observant Jews enter the Temple Mount as visitors only. Freedom of access to the Temple Mount is anchored in the laws of the State and in the judgments of the High Court of Justice.

The Moslems and the Temple Mount

Since the Arab conquest of Jerusalem in 638, the Temple Mount has been a Moslem religious center. The High Court of Justice recognized the Temple Mount as a holy place for Moslems and it functions as a center of Moslem prayer. Given the exceptional sensitivity surrounding this holy place, former Prime Minister of Israel Levi Eshkol said, as early as 27 June 1967, to the heads of all religions that "...the holy places in Jerusalem are open to all religions. Everyone is welcome to visit and pray at the holy places, according to his religion and without discrimination..." In accordance with this principle, the Internal Administration of matters relating to the Temple Mount, including the mosques thereon, has been given to the authority of the Moslem Waqf.

The Responsibility for the Security of the Temple Mount

The responsibility for the security of the Temple Mount has been placed on the civil authorities, whether during the days of the British Mandate or during the time of Jordanian rule. That is to say, the maintaining of public order is a State matter. The government of Israel, which holds sovereign jurisdiction over the Temple Mount, is, therefore, responsible for security on the site. Even Waqf authorities have not seen themselves as responsible for security matters.

In the report by an Arab "commission of investigation"—signed by Anwar al-Khatib, Anwar Nusaybah and Ba'id Allah al-Adin—which was published following the fire at al-Aqsa Mosque in 1989, it was said, among other things, that "...the occupation authorities, being as they are, cannot escape their security responsibilities. The guardians of the Moslem shrines have no security jurisdiction or function..."

The Application of Criminal Law at the Holy Places

The High Court of Justice (HCJ 267/68) determined that criminal law, in its entirety, applies to the "holy places," but the State authorities have acted with caution in all matters concerning the enforcement of the law on the Temple Mount, owing to the sensitivity of the place and to a desire to prevent any outbursts of a religious nature.

Freedom of Religion—the Adjucative Angle

Freedom of religion for Jews on the Temple Mount, as opposed to freedom of access, has been dealt with in many judgments of the High Court of Justice. In these judgments, criticism has been directed at the police decision to refuse permission to Jews who wish to pray on the Temple Mount. The majority of the appeals have been rejected by the Court, and, in most cases, an opinion has been expressed that the Temple Mount matter must be approached with great sensitivity, preferable to "...the hard-line and non-flexible approach of the law..." (see HCJ 222/86).

CHAPTER 4: REVIEW OF ORDERS AND ISRAEL POLICE PREPARATIONS GENERAL

At the beginning of 1990, an operational plan was formulated which dealt with police preparations in the Jerusalem District, and which was termed "First Thought." The main points of the plan determined that responsibility for the above district would be held by the Border Patrol headquarters, Jerusalem, which would be subordinate to the Jerusalem District (police) command and that the new headquarters would be granted the possibility and authority to operate on independent initiative.

The Border Patrol's "C" Company was given responsibility for the area within the walls of the Old City (district D). It was clearly stated that disturbances and incitement were possible on the Temple Mount within this district. [Police] preparations brought into account the need to reinforce and increase forces under special circumstances. The "priestly benediction" and activities of the "Temple Mount Faithful" were cited among such circumstances.

POLICE ORDERS REGARDING SECURITY ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

Jerusalem District—In July 1983, the Jerusalem District published security orders and regulations regarding the Temple Mount. The orders include a description of the role attributed the commander of the Temple Mount (police) and standing orders to its policemen. In addition, the orders establish regulations regarding the activation of the Border Patrol force stationed on alert at the Mahkamah point, for reinforcement during incidents at the Temple Mount.

On 1.8.90, the Temple Mount unit was made subordinate to the police station in the Old City.

On 17.7.84 national (police) headquarters published "framework orders"—security and regulations on the Temple Mount. No detailed order given by the Southern District or the Jerusalem District was brought to the Commissions's attention, and the order given in July 1983 will be updated.

Border Patrol—In June 1989, a security order was issued to the Border Patrol's "C" company. The order established that responsibility for maintaining order and security on the Temple Mount, as well as the safeguarding of approach roads for visitors and the prevention of disturbances on the Temple Mount, lay with the Border Patrol unit.

ISRAELI POLICE ORDERS ISSUED BEFORE 8.10.90.

National Headquarters—On 21.8.90, the operations division of the national headquarters issued "Operational Orders—Holidays 1990," intended to ensure public order and especially to ensure the safety of worshipers at various sites. The intelligence evaluation submitted with the orders determined that Jewish holidays constitute preferred dates for attacks, and stated clearly the sensitivity in East Jerusalem and on the Temple Mount as well as the probability of attack.

Southern District Headquarters—On 29.8.90, headquarters issued operational orders—"Southern District preparations for the New Year and Sukkoth holidays 1990." The operational orders do not relate specifically to the Temple Mount and Western Wall area, apart from reference to the priestly benediction as a central event.

Jerusalem District headquarters—In August 1990, headquarters issued Jerusalem headquarters preparation orders for the 1990 holidays. The orders emphasized vacation sites, but neither the Temple Mount nor the Western Wall were cited as special targets at which security had to be increased.

A number of appendixes were added to the orders. Appendix 9 dealt with the Old City police station, Appendix 13 with events due to take place over the holidays, citing the priestly benediction and "Temple Mount Faithful" events; Appendix 21 included orders regarding the priestly benediction events and imposed operational responsibility on the Border Patrol, Jerusalem; Appendix 22 related to the "Temple Mount Faithful" and detailed the events which they would be allowed to carry out in order to prevent "disturbances of the peace in the area."

Jerusalem District Border Patrol—On 16.9.90, preparation orders for the 1990 holidays were issued. It was clearly stated that the company would increase its forces at the Western Wall and prepare reinforcements above the Western Wall. In Appendix 6 to the order, it was stated, inter alia, that a special force, to be stationed on the Temple Mount above the Western Wall, would be added on the eve of the Sukkoth holiday and on the day of the priestly benediction.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AND DISCUSSIONS HELD BEFORE THE EVENTS

Discussions at the Police and Security Service Level: On 24.8.90 information regarding a possible conflagration concerning the Temple Mount was brought to the attention of the relevant police officials. At the end of September, the security situation expected over the holidays was discussed with the head of police intelligence within a forum which was convened by the committee for the security of Jerusalem, and with the inspector-general at a working meeting between the Jerusalem district commander and with the (person) responsible for the city's security.

The Prime Minister's statements—On 30.9.90, at the end of the cabinet meeting in which the police minister and inspector-general briefed on the issue, the Prime Minister concluded: "...Security in Jerusalem is of the utmost importance and the police, at the time, received special orders to ensure that Jerusalem's security would not be violated... we are witness to too many disturbances and attacks in Jerusalem. This situation must be halted."

THE APPEAL OF THE "TEMPLE MOUNT FAITHFUL" TO THE HIGH COURT.

On 1.10.90, the appeal directing the police to allow the Temple cornerstone laying ceremony to be carried out adjacent to the Dung Gate and the building of a sukkah next to the Moors' Gate was discussed. A declaration made by an officer from the Jerusalem district operations division was attached to the notice of objection to the petition, filed on behalf of the State Attorney, which stated that the police had intelligence information about expected disturbances on the Temple Mount as a result of the appellants' intentions, and that building a Sukkah adjacent to the Moors' Gate would result in stone-throwing, which could unintentionally harm worshipers at the Western Wall Plaza.

The appeal was rejected and this was given widespread coverage in Arabic newspapers published in East Jerusalem. In addition to this coverage, conclusions of the discussion were submitted on 3.10.90 to the Waqf administration and to the al-Aqsa mosque administration.

PREPARATIONS REGARDING THE TEMPLE MOUNT BEFORE 8.10.90

Calls during Friday prayers:

Despite coverage and the announcements communicated to the Waqf administration, the Muezzin, after Friday prayers (5.10.90), called on youths to arrive at the Temple Mount on Monday (8.10.90) in order to bodily prevent Jews from laying the cornerstone on the Temple Mount. Following the Muezzin's appeal, speeches were made, repeating the appeals.

Intelligence sources and a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet informed of expected disturbances on 5,6,7-11.10.90. On 7.10, masked assailants called on the residents of Abu-Tor to arrive the following day at the Temple Mount in response to the intentions of Jews to arrive at the site.

DISCUSSION AND PUBLICATIONS

On 5.10.90, a discussion regarding security preparations in Jerusalem was held in the police minister's office. On 7.10, the minister briefed the cabinet. On the morning of the day of the events, the afternoon newspapers published reports about the reinforcement of forces and new preparations in Jerusalem resulting from the Muslim religious leaders' calls.

CHAPTER 5: DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT ON 8.10.90

This chapter describes as accurately as possible the chain of events on the Temple Mount. The description is based on testimony (gathered under sworn statement and under warning) from security personnel who were present on the Temple Mount at the time of the events. The testimony was investigated and verified through various means—whether by video, written declarations or additional information gathered by the security services and the public. Some of the prisoners were also investigated, as well as those injured. All facts and times were cross-checked.

The chain of events began at 3:30 AM, when Muslim worshipers entered the Temple Mount for dawn prayers, and ended at 1:30 PM. In this summary, we only will make mention of a number of main events.

At 8:30 AM, when a few hundred youths already were present on the Temple Mount, a "calming discussion" was held between the commander of police on the Temple Mount and Waqf dignitaries. The police commander announced that no one would enter the Temple Mount on that day. It was emphasized that the "Temple Mount Faithful" would not be allowed to enter the Temple Mount either. At 8:40 AM, a gathering of about 2,000 people was reported and a warning about disturbances was given. A Border Patrol officer requested response.

At 9:00 AM a reinforcement force of Border Patrol was deployed above the Western Wall.

Between 9:15 AM and 9:30 AM, Waqf dignitaries were requested to calm the atmosphere.

Between 9:40 AM and 9:50 AM the "priestly benediction" was held at the Western Wall, with the participation of between 20,000 and 30,000 people. At the conclusion of the prayers, they began leaving the site.

At 9:50 AM, approximately 20 members of the "Temple Mount Faithful" arrived at the Western Wall Plaza and at 10:00 AM they departed, accompanied by police, for the Pool of Silwan. At this time, sermons and speeches began to be heard on the Temple Mount, which included incitement against Jews. Waqf members were warned that wild incitement could lead to disturbances and were requested to calm the atmosphere. At this time, youths began gathering stones from buildings being renovated on the Temple Mount.

At 10:45 AM, approximately 2,000-3,000 people stormed toward 44 Border Patrol policemen who were standing above the Western Wall. Stones and pieces of iron were thrown at them and in the direction of the Western Wall. An order was given to shoot tear gas and rubber bullets, but the storming was not halted. Border Patrol policemen, some of whom were injured, retreated to beyond the Moors' Gate and toward the Mahkamah. The evacuation of worshipers from the Western Wall Plaza was begun immediately.

At 10:55 AM, hundreds of youths charged the police station on the Temple Mount, in which two policemen who were shouting for help were trapped. Contact with them was broken and the two policemen, who managed to escape, did not succeed in relaying word of their escape. Weapons and ammunition was left in the police station.

While worshipers and Border Patrol policemen were being evacuated, no live fire was directed at the rioters.

At 11:05 AM, policemen began breaking through to the Temple Mount via the Moors' Gate. The policemen met a barrage of stones and iron and gas canisters which they shot were thrown back at them. The incited mob prevented the policemen from progressing toward the police point. Masked assailants stormed the policemen and, since they were not halted by rubber bullets, live ammunition was fired, first in the air, and subsequently toward the rioters.

At about 11:00 AM, the first ambulances arrived at the Temple Mount and parked at the entrance to al-Aqsa mosque, in an area in which tear gas and rubber bullets and subsequently live ammunition was being shot. As a result of the shooting, the ambulance driver and the accompanying nurse were injured.

At 11:15 AM, a patrol helicopter was called in to the Temple Mount area. Throughout the incident no shooting took place from the helicopter, and it served for follow-up and reconnaissance purposes only.

At 11:25 AM, after the rioters retreated into the mosques, the "cease fire" order was given.

At 11:30 AM, disturbances began in the vicinity of Lions' Gate. Youths attacked policemen with stones and, because rubber bullets and gas were not effective, the policemen were compelled to use live ammunition. Border Patrol policemen arrived in vicinity of the Lions' Gate after hearing on two-way radios that severe riots and disturbances were taking place there.

Between 12:50 PM and 1:00 PM a team of Border Patrol policemen were attacked by youths and masked assailants near al-Maqasid Hospital. During the chase, a gas canister was released, and entered the hospital. The patrol commander apologized for this regrettable incident.

There were many injuries in this severe incident. 19 policemen were injured as well as 9 Western Wall worshipers. According to Israel Police statistics, 20 people were killed and 53 injured on the Temple Mount. Due to a lack of written record, those who arrived at hospitals and were released the same day were not included in the number of wounded. The casualties and wounded were killed and injured while being present on the Temple Mount. Nobody was wounded while being present in mosques or buildings on the Temple Mount compound.

CHAPTER 6: ORGANIZATION, OPERATION AND SUPERVISION

Intelligence—Difficulties in the gathering of information create a division (of labor) whereby the GSS gathers information regarding disturbances which are organized in advance, and spontaneous disturbances are dealt with by the police. Information concerning street gatherings which are conveyed quickly to the police facilitate police response. The Commission is convinced that the present division of roles between the GSS and the police is correct and should not be changed.

Temple Mount Intelligence—The information on which the Jerusalem District based its evaluations regarding possible events on the Mount on 8.10.90, are partly covert and partly overt: Muezzin calls, leaflets, information about masked assailants who were in the neighborhood and covert information regarding concern over a confrontation with the "Temple Mount Faithful."

Based on this information, the police estimated that if it notified the Waqf administration of the High Court decision stating that there was no need to intervene in the police decision to prevent the "Temple Mount Faithful" from carrying out their plans—passions would calm down. This was done, and the Jerusalem District police estimated that its steps calmed passions and, therefore, did not deploy its regular contingent for events on the Temple Mount which are liable to result in disruptions of order. The GSS evaluation relayed to the Commission on 16.10.90 differed. According to this evaluation, an unexpected accelerating factor in a(n emotionally) charged crowd is sufficient to cause a confrontation with the police. No basis was found for this evaluation in material distributed by the GSS before 8.10.90.

Police Preparations for Operations on the Temple Mount—A Border Patrol regiment is subordinate to the Jerusalem District. "C" Company, part of this regiment, is stationed in the Old City. A standby unit is also stationed at the Mahkamah. The Border Patrol company coordinates its operations with other police forces. The recently established Old City headquarters holds regional responsibility for all areas in the Old City.

On days given to disturbances, the Jerusalem District takes command of all forces and establishes a forward command post. When a forward command post is established, no questions arise as to command of the forces. Ordinarily, the question of authority over the Border Patrol company in the Old City arises.

The division of command over policemen on the Temple Mount, between commander of the Old City and the Border Patrol commander, resulted in faults in the containment of the unrest. "C" company operated under the complete authority of the Border Police commander until the arrival of the Jerusalem District commander, who subsequently took command of all forces. The deployment of forces on the Temple Mount on 8.10.90 was based on preparation orders of the Jerusalem District, Southern Region, which were issued to Border Patrol headquarters. Border Patrol headquarters also issued an order pertaining to its company and which defined its missions.

Headquarters Alert—The special sensitivity of the site, and information available to the commanders, should have caused them to arrive at the site. The commanders were occupied with other events, but, in light of information available to them, they should have altered their priorities. The Commission has investigated and found that the commander of "C" company took the necessary decisions, based on preliminary orders issued him and an assessment of the field situation. Different preparations would have subjected the 20,000 worshipers to severe danger.

Lessons—Police Deployment on the Temple Mount—Thousands of worshipers concentrate on the Temple Mount and in the Western Wall Plaza on religious holidays. The mounting extremism among minority groups of Jews and Muslims obligates the adoption of appropriate security measures. The gathering of hundreds of Muslims within the Temple Mount boundaries constitutes a threat to worshipers at the Western Wall. Their storming above the Wall, even when this area is manned by policemen, does not prevent stoning in the direction of the Plaza. Their containment, in such a case, can be achieved only by the shooting of tear gas, rubber bullets and when no choice remains—live ammunition. It is in the Commission's opinion that an appropriate security apparatus must be based, first and foremost, upon control and supervision of entry into the Temple Mount.

Actions Taken by the Forces—Stage 1: The storming of more than 2,000 Muslims toward Border Patrol policemen, some of whom were wounded, who were compelled to use tear gas, shoot rubber bullets and retreat in alarm. At this stage, live fire was shot by only two commanders. At the same time, Border Patrol policemen warned worshipers at the Western Wall to begin evacuation of the Plaza. Stage 2: The district commander arrived at the Moors' Gate and took command. The duty officer at the Temple Mount police station calls for help, the station is attacked. The police force prepares to charge and the district commander allows the use of live ammunition, in accordance with police orders.

The charging police forces gathered in an improvised manner. During the charge there was an unsupervised use of live ammunition. The rescue of the two policemen trapped inside the Temple Mount police station justified a quick operation and the use of all means. On other fronts, only those policemen whose lives were in danger were justified in using live ammunition. Gaining control of the line between the police station and al-Aqsa mosque was essential, but it is doubtful whether clearing the area from there in the direction of the Lions' Gate was crucial under conditions which prevailed on the Mount.

Difficulties in Activation of the Forces—The Jerusalem District headquarters and Border Patrol headquarters had no advance plans for gaining control of the Temple Mount area. It was not forecasted that during routine days, a mob would gain control of the Temple Mount area or that police forces would have to regain control of the area. These facts influenced the operation of the forces. Deployment of the Border Patrol forces above the Wall came as a surprise to the district commander and the district operations officer. It would have been preferable to ensure that the Gate of the Chain remain open through advance planning and early orders.

The many events that took place in the Jerusalem District resulted in the fact that the district commander and officers of his staff were not present at headquarters, and this severely impeded its operation. The absence of a commander is justified as long as headquarters serves as a center of control over forces in the field.

Important information was relayed to the headquarters during the day. Had there been an authoritative duty officer present, the situation would have been different. Such circumstances would have facilitated a re-evaluation of forces, a suitable deterrent force would have prevented the mob from attacking the Border Patrol policemen who were stationed above the Western Wall, and such extensive use of live fire would have been prevented.

There has to be an immediate implementation of the lessons of 8.10.90; faults have to be rectified; and, the functioning of (forces) in the Temple Mount area in times of emergency, as well as under regular conditions, has to be re-evaluated.

Bomb 'Defused' Outside British Bank in Amman

JN2710123390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1216 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian security forces have defused a bomb a few seconds before it was timed to explode in front of a branch of the British Bank of the Middle East in the center of the Jordanian capital.

An anonymous caller, claiming to be speaking on behalf of the Revolutionary Arab Communist Party [al-hizb al-'arabi al-shuyu'i al-thawri], contacted our offices and said a bomb would explode before 1300 local time [1100 GMT]. Bank sources said an employee noticed a suspicious parcel in front of the bank's entrance and reported it. The security forces evacuated the bank and dismantled the bomb.

This is the first incident of this type against Western interests in Jordan since the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

Device Harmless

JN2710142790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1405 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Public Security Directorate has reported that at 1310 [1110 GMT] today the security organs were informed that there was a suspicious-looking parcel in the building of the British Bank of the Middle East. The Public Security men immediately rushed to the site and the building was evacuated. The suspicious parcel was also moved to an open area.

Upon examination, it was found that it was made up of used batteries connected to an unserviceable watch, and that the parcel contained no explosives.

Group Claims Responsibility

NC2710144990 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Amman, Oct 27 (AFP)—Police dismantled a fake bomb Saturday at a branch of the British Bank of the Middle East here as a clandestine Arab group claimed responsibility for the device and warned London and Washington of more attacks.

The bank's deputy regional director, Edouard al-Farr, said police were called in after a suspicious parcel was found by employees at the branch, located in a densely-populated part of downtown Amman. [passage omitted]

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the hitherto unknown Arab Communist Revolutionary Party told Agence France-Presse by telephone that the group had planted the device.

He said the group had informed the bank to allow police to dismantle the mechanism before it was set to go off at 1:00 p.m.

The action was a "warning to the British and the West because of their hostility toward Arabs," the caller said. "The next bombs will not be the type that can be dismantled."

"We have proven to them that we can reach their interests," he said, adding that the British and U.S. Governments should be wary of "any action that could undermine the Palestinian, Iraqi and Arab peoples."

A security source had said earlier the device was a bomb that had probably been made locally.

It was the first attempted attack on Western interests in Jordan since the start of the Gulf crisis.

The spokesman for the underground group said his organisation was set up shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 and that it was based in Amman.

Saudis Dismiss 21 Jordanian Airline Pilots

JN2910072790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 90 p 1

[By Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—Saudi authorities have terminated the service of 21 Jordanian pilots, 19 of them seconded by Royal Jordanian to work for Saudia [Saudi National Airlines] for five years under contracts renewed every two years, informed sources said Sunday.

The Jordanian pilots were informed verbally Thursday that Saudia will stop paying their salaries as of November and attributed the measure to a drop in the number of Saudia flights, according to the sources.

RJ officials said they had made contacts with the chief pilot of Saudia, Jazza' al-Ghanim, to enquire about the situation and were told that he had no information about this subject.

The RJ officials said, they had not been informed officially or unofficially of any such measures or decisions. But sources said that RJ Director General Husam Abu-Ghazalah, who is now in Geneva expected to discuss this subject with his Saudi counterpart.

The Saudi move against Jordanian pilots is the latest in a series of measures adopted by Saudi Arabia against Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis which found the two countries at odds over the approach to the crisis.

Saudi Arabia has cut off oil supplies to Jordan, expelled Jordanian diplomats and embassy staff, banned the entry of Jordanian trucks into Saudi territory, and halted imports from Jordan. In addition, it has also either delayed or refused transhipment of cargo bound for Jordan through Saudi ports.

Other Flights Suspended

JN2910073490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 90 p 3

[By Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—Three European airlines have stopped or suspended flights to the Jordanian capital further aggravating the Kingdom's economic difficulties.

Swissair Friday cancelled its bi-weekly flights between Zurich and Amman and Zurich and Damascus, according to a Swissair official. The official said the decision to cancel the flights was taken before the Gulf crisis and was part of a "network reorganisation" plan.

"Swissair is simply distributing its planes to a more profitable destination," the official told the Jordan Times Sunday. "It has nothing to do with the Gulf crisis or the drop in air traffic resulting from the conflict," he said. Swissair will keep a representative office in Amman but will reduce its staff by four persons.

When Swissair decided to cancel the flights, the company gave its passengers to Austrian Airlines but they also stopped flights to Amman.

Alitalia has suspended flights between Rome and Amman for the winter season because of the drop in tourist traffic following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. According to an Alitalia official, some flights only carried 20-30 passengers "which made it commercially not feasible to continue the flights."

"The temporary suspension is due only to the big drop in traffic. The intention is that starting April 1 our operation will be back to normal," Alitalia's General Manager Francesco Fienga was quoted by Reuters as saying.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the decision by the three airlines has hurt Jordan. "Although we do not think it is politically motivated we hope they will reconsider their decision." The minister said that despite the Gulf crisis "there are many who would still like to come to Jordan." Following the invasion, a European travel advisory on the Middle East was issued which has drastically reduced the number of visitors to the country.

Income generated from tourism amounts to about JD 314 million ($540 million) or nearly 14 per cent of the gross national product (GNP). Last year, nearly 30 per cent of tourists to Jordan were from Europe.

Jordan has been severely affected by the Gulf crisis and compliance with U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq, but so far has not received any substantial financial assistance. Deputy Central Bank Governor Michel Marto said last week: "We really need money to keep importing food necessities and raw materials for industry. We do not want to see our economy collapse."

Jordan's GNP could fall by 30 per cent this year and by 50 per cent in 1991, according to U.N. envoy Jean Ripert.

Problems With UK Firm

JN2810072390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Oct 90 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—A British firm has refused to transport cargo aboard a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft claiming the Jordanian national carrier is "blacklisted" because of the Gulf crisis, according to a Jordanian contractor.

The contractor said the firm sent him a letter saying that it was "facing difficulties in sending material needed to complete the project (which is carried out by the contractor) because RJ is blacklisted... if you choose a cargo agent from Britain we will be able to send you the bill."

RJ Deputy Director General for Service 'Aqil Biltaji dismissed that RJ was included in any "blacklist."

"We have not been informed so far by any of our offices of difficulties in cargo transportation," Biltaji said. He added that RJ would follow up information about some companies which take such measures on their own.

As a result of the Gulf crisis, he said, some establishments, through their initiative, changed their stand on Jordan without any justification.

Jordan is suffering from the imposition of unannounced sanctions against it by some Arab and foreign countries because of its opposition to sending foreign troops to the Gulf region.

According to a report the government sent to the United Nations last month, Jordan stands to lose $480 million during the first year of implementing the sanctions imposed on Iraq by the U.N. in transport and tourism, excluding the private sector.

In addition Jordanian passengers travelling through Heathrow airport report strict searches and questioning by British authorities at the airport.

Informed sources said the Jordanian government was following up the issue with the British authorities, who promised to stop such measures, especially after the crew of an RJ aircraft were searched twice, the first before boarding the plane and the second after they took their positions in it. International aviation law considers the aircraft as part of the land of the mother country.

The director of the RJ office at Heathrow who was contacted by telephone Saturday said the British authorities were following these measures and methods but not as strictly as before.

He said the concerned authorities at Heathrow still search Jordanian passengers' luggage and personal papers, photocopy all contracts and official papers they have and ask them personal questions.

In another development Swissair and Alitalia airlines announced that they will stop their flights to and from Amman as of Saturday.

Biltaji attributed this to the Gulf crisis saying the airlines were suffering financial losses and feared to travel to areas designed as war zones by their countries.

"The Gulf crisis has affected flights by various airlines since the number of passengers to and from Jordan decreased drastically, forcing the airlines to stop their flights for fear of losses," he said.

Port Official on Shipping Difficulties

JN2810140090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Oct pp 1, 13

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Text] The number of commercial ships in al-'Aqabah port as of noon yesterday was ten. Most ships arrived empty at the port in order to load Jordanian phosphate, cement, and potash for shipment to contracted countries. In addition, several ships carried cargo and containers destined for Jordanian importers.

It was learned that among these ships was the "Ibn-Zaydun" which arrived at dawn yesterday from Port Said in Egypt carrying 197 containers which the "al-Watyah" had been forced to unload at Port Said by the commander of the U.S. Navy, who forced it to turn back at the Strait of Tiran at the entrance of al-'Aqabah Port on 21 October, claiming that it was carrying containers destined for the free zone in al-Zarqa'.

Engineer 'Awad al-Tal, director of al-'Aqabah Port Corporation, has said that the port has been greatly affected by several factors, among which are the abnormal search operations conducted by the U.S. Navy at the entrance to al-'Aqabah Port, the obstacles facing ships, and the increase in fees of sea shipments and insurance premiums in view of the danger of war.

He added: This situation has prompted shipowners to reconsider trips to al-'Aqabah. It also prompted Jordanian businessmen to avoid importing goods by sea due to the lack of guarantees that shipments will arrive on time.

Al-Tal pointed to the noticeable reduction in shipping at al-'Aqabah port this month compared to last month.

Several shipping agents in Jordan have said that the number of ships docking at al-'Aqabah Port has decreased by approximately 60 percent due to the current situation in the Gulf, the increase in insurance premiums, and the increase in oil prices, which has lead shipping and transport companies to increase the cost of sea shipments in accordance with the increase in oil prices and insurance premiums.

They also noted that the cost of sea shipments will increase because indications for the near future are that supply and demand at al-'Aqabah Port will largely decrease. Therefore, al-'Aqabah Port will witness very difficult conditions.

Supply Ministry Chartered Ships Not Harassed

JN2710205190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[By Musa Hawamdah]

[Excerpt] Radi Ibrahim, secretary general of the Ministry of Supply, has said in an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR that the supply materials imported by the Supply Ministry via al-'Aqabah Port arrive regularly. He added that these supply materials are not subjected to harassment as a result of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, because these ships are fully chartered by the Ministry of Supply. Therefore, their cargo is obvious. However, he added, the "Lines" vessels carrying various cargo for Jordanian merchants are subjected to questioning and considerable and frequent harassment, and they are not allowed to go on, return to, or unload their cargo at other ports. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Compensation for Kuwait Losses Denied

JN2810070990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Labour Minister Qasim 'Ubaydat Saturday denied a report in the local press saying that the Iraqi government was planning to offer Jordanians compensation for their losses of property or savings in Kuwait.

The report, which appeared in AL-DUSTUR daily, quoted the minister as saying that the Iraqi government planned to offer compensation and release assets and funds owned by Jordanians who used to work in Kuwait before Iraq's takeover on Aug. 2.

In his statement to the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, the minister said that the report was groundless and added that the Ministry of Labour had opened a special office in Amman, at the request of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, for Jordanian expatriates who used to work in Kuwait to register their claims.

Jordanian officials estimated that 280,000 Jordanians have so far returned from the Gulf states, the majority from Kuwait, leaving behind their earnings in banks, their investments in business and compensation for the long years spent there. The office is documenting the complaints which will be taken up with the concerned authorities, according to the minister.

According to ministry officials, thousands have responded to the ministry call to register, providing the required information on special forms now being processed by the Ministry of Labour.

According to 'Ubaydat, Jordanians working in Kuwait are estimated to have lost up to $8 billion in assets and income.

'Ubaydat, in an interview with Reuter news agency, said that the estimate was based on a survey of some 3,250 loss claims filed by Jordanians who fled Kuwait.

'Ubaydat said that he had asked Jordanians coming from Kuwait to detail losses for the record and possible future compensation.

"Based on a selection of random samples from these 3,250 cases and based on the total figure of 80,000 Jordanian migrant workers, we estimate that their loss is between six to eight billion dollars," the labour minister said in the interview.

'Ubaydat said 160,000 of the 260,000 Jordanians who fled Kuwait had already returned to the emirate to try to resume jobs there and would bring their families back once tension eases.

An average of 500 Jordanians have been returning to Kuwait every day.

Official Describes Joint Talks With Soviets

JN2710145090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Soviet committee continued its meetings in Amman today. The committee is discussing prospects for expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Ibrahim Badran, the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, spoke to Radio Jordan about the committee's meetings.

[Begin Badran recording, in progress] ... is the second session of the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee, and in this session we are trying to follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the first session. The main objective of the discussion is to find the ways and means and mechanisms in order to expand the trade relations and exchange between Jordan and the Soviet Union. In the past few months, we have a very successful experience for the Jordanian products. We signed a protocol in February 1990 with a value of $42 million to export Jordanian products to the Soviet Union. And the acceptance of these products in the Soviet Union was very encouraging. So the opportunity is very ripe, really, to increase the exports of Jordanian products to the Soviet Union.

At the same time, we are discussing the possibility of having joint ventures and joint projects between the Soviet Union and Jordan. Especially, the present circumstances in the Soviet Union make the possibility of such joint ventures with the private sector on the Jordanian side and some of the institutions and corporations in the Soviet Union very possible.

We hope that tomorrow the meetings will be over and we will sign the joint documents. [end recording]

U.S. Observers May Check Border Crossings

JN2910104890 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 90

[From the "Week in One Hour" Program]

[Text] The Jordanian authorities have agreed that observers from the United States will take up positions along the Jordanian-Iraqi border to inspect the contents of trucks leaving for Iraq and ascertain that they do not carry goods that are banned under the UN Security Council resolution.

The Jordanian authorities had stopped a convoy that was carrying foodstuffs for Iraq in implementation of the international resolutions.

Badran, Bin-Shakir Return From Baghdad

JN2710191090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd bin-Shakir returned to Amman today following a short working visit to the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, where they met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Citizens Alerted on Counterfeit Banknotes

JN2710204290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 27 Oct (PETRA)—The anti-forgery department has discovered a $1 million counterfeit banknote, which was presented by one of the local companies to the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] for examination.

The CBJ urged citizens to be cautious and to inform the competent security authorities any time they encounter suspicious banknotes.

The company had earlier presented the banknote to one of the local banks, which replied that it had no knowledge about a $1 million banknote, and that the CBJ should be consulted on this matter. The CBJ then referred the banknote to the forgery fighting department.

Primakov's Mission on Gulf Resolution Viewed

JN2610130190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Oct 90 pp 1, 12

[News Report: "On Soviet Moves in the Region"]

[Text] Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov's mission aims to achieve a compromise solution to the Gulf crisis.

The intense shuttle diplomacy by the Soviet envoy indicates the USSR has not shut the door to any prospects to resolve the crisis peacefully and to Soviet attempts to play a major role in resolving Middle East crises.

Palestinian officials expect Primakov's mission to culminate in an announcement of joint French-Soviet ideas after the Gorbachev-Mitterrand summit or a peace initiative based on partial Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and confirmation of the link between the resolution of the Gulf crisis and the settlement of all conflicts in the region.

A Palestinian official in the PLO has said the ideas that the Soviet envoy is presenting to different Arab and Western capitals could lead to "opening a dialogue" between Iraq and the other parties concerned in the crisis. These ideas, he said, are based on a promise Primakov obtained from the Iraqi leadership for "a partial withdrawal from Kuwait in return for international guarantees to begin negotiations to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories."

The Palestinian official, who attended a meeting in Amman recently between the Soviet envoy and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, explained that the Soviet envoy was pessimistic at first about reaching a political solution to the Gulf crisis. However, this pessimism disappeared after the Soviet envoy met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Primakov came out of that meeting with encouraging signs about Iraq's desire for peace and a settlement of the Kuwait crisis if a link could be established with the settlement of all other crises in the region.

Another Palestinian official said that the proposed Iraqi withdrawal would begin with withdrawal from the Kuwait City. This, he said, would be followed by negotiations on the beginning of an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories. The same official said that the PLO has concluded from the Palestinian leadership's meetings with the Soviet envoy and from contacts with several parties, including France and China, that all the parties welcome the idea of linking all issues in the Middle East.

Referring to Primakov's visits to various capitals, including a second one to Baghdad, the Palestinian official said: "The purpose of the Soviet envoy's moves is to secure international support for initiating a dialogue between Iraq and the other parties in order to develop a peace initiative." However, the Palestinian official said that the U.S. Administration has rejected the principle of partial withdrawal and has insisted on full Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait without preconditions. The U.S. Administration has also rejected the idea of a simultaneous link between the issues of the region.

A Soviet source said that Primakov has several ideas, which may not be new but that could help develop a new position to remove the specter of war and lead to progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis.

An Arab diplomat said that the Iraqi stand is gradually changing toward accepting the idea of starting a dialogue with any Arab or international side that seeks peace in the region. The diplomat noted in this respect Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz' statements two days as indicating this new trend, compared with previous statements by Iraqi officials that insisted Iraq would not enter into negotiations with any Arab or international side to discuss the Kuwaiti issue.

The Arab diplomat said that the new Iraqi stand is the result of the flexibility shown by certain international parties, which have reconsidered their positions and discounted war, since it would only harm everyone's interests without exception. The diplomat noted the new French position, which he described as "positive." He said the French stand is far ahead of that of the United States and Britain in particular.

At the same time, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, said that continuous Palestinian efforts to begin a negotiation process leading to peace in the region have enabled the PLO to arrange an unannounced meeting between 'Aziz and Claude Cheysson, former French minister and president of the European Parliament, in Tunis last week. The French ambassador to Jordan, M. Denis Bauchard, confirmed that this meeting had indeed taken place in France. However, he denied that Cheysson met with 'Aziz as a representative of the French Government. Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahim also referred to several meetings between the Palestinian leadership and French officials to discuss the means to start a dialogue between the various parties to the conflict as a prelude to a peaceful settlement.

The ambassador referred to a semi-agreement between the Soviet Union and France, and also to the existence of a common ground between both sides which, he hoped, would result in a Soviet-French initiative based on the two principles of linkage and partial withdrawal.

Importance of Soviet-French Summit Viewed

JN2910085390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
29 Oct 90 p 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Paris Summit and the Competition Between Options"]

[Text] Amidst the fierce competition now between the options of war and peace, and while the United States continues to beat the drums of war and talk about massing more troops, an important bilateral summit is being held in Paris between two presidents—Soviet and French—whose results could decide the probable course of developments in the Gulf crisis for the foreseeable future.

The importance of the bilateral Paris summit stems from holding it under circumstances fraught with danger and tension. Adding to its importance is the fact that its two distinguished poles are clinging to the search for a peaceful solution to the resulting crisis in the Gulf and to confront a continuing U.S. campaign of military force and war.

If Paris has taken a distinguished position within the Western alliance by calling for exhausting all possible peaceful options and demanding a link among the historical issues in the Middle East, then Moscow, despite its great harmony with Washington in the Security Council, continues to call for a total rejection of force in dealing with the crisis. In fact, it warns of the terrifying inherent dangers.

Perhaps Soviet Envoy Yevgeniy Primakov's tour of numerous capitals involved in the Gulf crisis and the Soviet statements and suggestions accompanying this tour present the best prospect possible for Moscow's option, which calls for ruling out war completely and trying every possible means to put an end to the Gulf crisis peacefully.

Proceeding from this, we expect the Paris summit to produce a position that in itself would call for merging the two current public positions of the Soviet Union and France, something that could push the specter of war a substantial step backwards and create firmer ground for current diplomatic efforts on more than one level to find a negotiable settlement to the crisis.

If, however, the two leaders, the Soviet and the French, manage to develop and expand the joint basis of their two positions on the Gulf crisis, then they would be calling for an objective link among all crises in the region. By doing so, it becomes possible for them to open a wide gap in the wall of the crisis through which coordinated diplomatic efforts would pour, with the objective of placing the whole Middle East in the atmosphere of the new world order.

Because of all this, the hopes pinned on the Paris summit are justified for all those who call for fending off unlimited death and destruction from the region. This is especially true because the two capitals enjoy huge credibility and have identical opinions on the crisis, and since the two presidents—French and Soviet—are continuing important diplomatic efforts to put an end to the U.S. impulse for war and to create greater political restrictions on every possible U.S. resolution that could deal Iraq a military blow, especially now when U.S. President George Bush is swinging between those calling for war and those who call for trying every means possible to settle the crisis diplomatically.

Hope for U.S. 'Conviction' Reflected in Aid

JN2810123290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Oct 90 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Sooner The Better"]

[Text] It seems that the United States, the leader of the new international order, has recently become convinced that Jordan has been greatly harmed by the international embargo on Iraq. Based on this conviction, it decided to ask the countries extending aid to include Jordan on the list of those countries greatly harmed as a result of the crisis.

We do not wish to cast doubt on the essence of this U.S. conviction which could reflect a tangible practical policy that differs from Washington's practiced policies and the practices of its navy in the region against Jordanian foreign trade. Hence, we believe that our country, without realizing, has been facing an embargo similar to the unjust one imposed on Iraq.

We are choked with great bitterness because of the double-standard U.S. positions and the ambiguous language the United States has been using when addressing Jordan and all Arabs. This prompts us not place much trust in the new U.S. conviction or Washington's call on its allies to help Jordan, especially since the U.S. Administration yesterday decided to decrease economic aid for Jordan while it decided to provide $700 million worth of weapons to Israel.

Jordan, whose economy has suffered great damage due to the eruption of the crisis and whose fortitude has decreased due to implementing the UN resolutions, has found nothing but disrespect and blockade by the masters of the new international regime even after it received hundreds of thousands of evacuees, after the closure of borders, closure of the oil pipeline, and declaration of an enforced embargo by some who were enthralled by the international forces and by the war statements of President Bush and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

In view of all this, we hope that the recent U.S. conviction in the sincerity of the Jordanian position on the UN resolutions would be a prelude to a tangible and practical policy which will reflect on our country in the form of urgent economic aid with no favoring, especially since the UN Security Council had earlier approved such aid and the UN assistant secretary general's report had in turn acknowledged the dire need for extending urgent economic aid to Jordan.

If there is a trend by the countries that will extend aid, especially those that made exaggerated pledges, to provide such aid, then it is preferable to rapidly determine the amount, dates of installments, and the manner in which the aid will be extended. Thus, the pledges will not remain as clouds that rain according to the wishes of the leadership of the new international order.

Delay in Aid Result of Stand on Crisis

JN2710114490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Oct 90 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "We Pay the Price of the Call for Peace!"]

[Text] The undeclared embargo against Jordan and the approving and extending of international compensation, to which Jordan has a right because it has been adversely affected by the embargo on Iraq, are arbitrary measures by imperialism against this country just because it openly said that only an Arab settlement of the Gulf crisis can really resolve our problems, and because it has called for a commitment to peaceful means in tackling the crisis to save the region from the evils and disasters that threaten it if the adventurers succeed in transforming it into a battlefield. Thus, the situation is very strange where those who call for peace are subjected to punishment and oppression!!

The Jordanian call is now reinforced by widespread demonstrations by the American and European masses, who have rallied against dragging their sons into a bitter war in which they have no interest. This massive mobilization has upset the oil and arms monopolists of the world. They are the only ones who will benefit from bloodshed in the Gulf. That is why they mobilized their tools to beat the drums of war, pour their wrath on Jordan, impose the undeclared and illegitimate embargo to which it is subjected now, and prevent the approval and provision of the aid to which it has a right. Thus, the monopolists and their tools have committed a crime against Jordan and paved the way for the crime they seek to commit in the region.

Needless to say, this country's determination to save the region from the evils of war that threaten it is a principle to which it is committed and from which it will not budge an inch. If Jordan has endured a great deal, then conscientious people will no doubt realize this. Our people, who are proud of their leadership's position, will remain strongly supportive of it with patience in the face of the economic pressures now sweeping Jordan from the outside, with the solidarity of all its sons, and with their steadfastness on this noble position.

They want Jordan to pay the price for the peace it seeks and to which it is committed. They want this price to be at the expense of its economy and the food of its people. Jordan is now paying the price, while firmly believing in peace and strongly adhering to it because Jordan's positions are neither based on pleasing others—the monopolists and opportunists—nor out of fear of unjust propaganda that can be levied against it, but rather on its noble principles and its unchanged belief in peace.

Editorial Views Countering U.S. Moves at UN

JN2610143890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Oct 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Israeli Rejection and the U.S. Umbrella]

[Text] Regrettably, the United States managed to buy more time when it passed another weak Security Council resolution expressing regret for Israel's position and almost begging it to help maintain world focus on the Gulf crisis.

Because Israel knows how precious it is to the leaders of the new world order, it ruthlessly rushed to slap the Security Council on the face, unequivocally declaring that it rejects the new Security Council resolution, as it did with its predecessor, and that it will not receive the UN secretary general's mission mentioned in both resolutions.

In rejecting the resolutions, this spoiled strategic ally knows that the Security Council—which displayed a lion's courage against Iraq—is too cowardly to show similar courage against Israel, and too weak to threaten an embargo against it, not to mention a multinational buildup to impose its resolutions and prevent a small country from deviating from world unanimity.

If Israel was not fully aware that it is covered by a U.S. political umbrella, it would not have rejected the resolutions of world unanimity so publicly. Nor would it have turned the occupied territories into a big prison, as it has over the past days. Were it not for this U.S. political cover, Israel would not prevent people from praying in mosques, or continue its crimes of murder, blockade, and chase before the eyes of the champions of the new world order, who cannot see the crimes and violations against Arabs and Palestinians in the territories that have been under the Israeli occupation for 23 years.

Although the Security Council set a close date to test Israel's reaction to the resolution that may be adopted after the UN secretary general presents his report, we doubts that the United States will use all its influence and diplomacy to render the world position flaccid, and, ultimately prevent the implementation of any possible recommendations in the secretary general's report.

We therefore call for stepping up the diplomatic campaign against the U.S. political maneuvers inside and outside the Security Council. We call on the United States to stop using two sets of scales—one for Iraq and one for Israel—if it wishes to maintain world respect and if it wants the Arabs to accept its logic and ideas about the world after the cold war.

U.S. Accused of Interference in Saudi Policy

JN2910121190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Oct 90 Second Edition p 12

["A Cause and An Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Why This American Fury?"]

[Text] President Bush's Administration blew up in anger and vehemently denied the Saudi defense minister's statements because they suggested his country was leaning toward the peace option. It then thanked the Saudi leadership because the latter prevented its defense minister and other officials from making any statements that suggest any desire by their country for the peace. Is this not direct interference by the U.S. Administration?

Therefore, Bush's Administration does not want to listen to peace calls, nor does it respect the will or right of its allies, or those who dance to its tune, in determining their own stand on the Gulf crisis and the issues of the region.

It wants to behave like an orchestra conductor where everyone plays the tune it wants and follows its signals. Whoever does not watch, follow, and play according to its signals merits its anger and wrath.

Therefore, the statements by the Saudi defense minister welcoming the peace option greatly aroused the Bush

Administration's anger and condemnation because the Bush Administration wants everyone to play its military tune and beat the drums of war.

The U.S. Administration does not want any side to play the tune of peace while it is amassing more military troops in the Peninsula and the Gulf and threatening to use force. The U.S. Administration refuses to allow a Saudi official to discuss peace or a peaceful settlement at a time when President Bush is determined to inspect U.S. troops in the Gulf and Peninsula next month and at a time when his Secretary of State James Baker intends to visit Saudi Arabia and a number of countries in the region soon to discuss the military option against Iraq.

We believe that the biggest worry of the U.S. Administration these days is the louder tune for a peaceful settlement in some Arab capitals, who now dance to its tune and take a behind it.

In addition, statements by certain officials in European capitals who are allies of the United States talking about a peaceful solution and suggesting that a split or division might break out in the Western camp arouse the United States' fear and madness and confuse it.

We believe that the U.S. Administration will, in the next few days or weeks, find itself playing the tune of war alone, in addition to Israel of course, which does not want any solution but war, and perhaps Britain also. This is because all world countries, including the Arab and Western allies of the United States, will soon discover that the war option is not in their or their people's interest, and that submitting to the U.S. will will involve them in catastrophes and tragedies that they can best do without, especially since the majority of countries and peoples reject war and choose peace.

Will the Bush Administration review its accounts and stop beating the drums of war before they burn down and burn their allies and the peoples of the region with their flames and cause further catastrophes and traumas for humanity?

Is there any hope that it will listen and respond to the Iraqi, Arab, and international peace initiatives, including President Mitterrand's initiative?

Report Highlights New Status for Jerusalem

JN2710154490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

["A Word" column: "Who Is Jerusalem For?"]

[Text] In an exposed attempt to bypass international justice, the government of the Zionist enemy formed an investigation commission on the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre perpetrated by the occupation forces against Palestinian citizens on 8 October. From the beginning it was obvious that the commission lacked credibility when the former Mossad chief was charged to chair it. The enemy government did not even try to round up all the components of the plot in which it wants to portray itself as dispensing justice when it failed to appoint a judge for this mission so as to evade any legal responsibility or recommendations issued by the commission.

When the commission came up with its report yesterday, the possibilities of trickery in the justice practiced by the commission became certain when it held the victim responsible for the massacre. Moreover, the report was empty of recommendations such as a verdict on the criminals who perpetrated the massacre. And in order to avoid the charge of exposed bias, the commission directed criticism at the commanders of the enemy police but left them with sufficient excuses for their crime so as to escape the punishment.

There is no doubt that with this behavior, the enemy wanted to face the international community, which condemned the massacre, and to prevent the exposure of the involvement of the authorities themselves in a large-scale scheme not only to kill the Palestinians, but also to expel them from their country and to judaize their holy places.

However, the central point in the matter here is that the massacre and the formalities surrounding it highlighted anew the legal status of the city of Jerusalem. Is the united capital of Israel not under the control of the occupation law? Or is it part of the occupied territory that should be subjected to the provisions that control the rest of the occupied territory?

The enemy tried to exploit the opportunity to reiterate claims that united Jerusalem is its capital and that the dispatch of an international commission to investigate the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre is interference in its internal affairs. Meanwhile, the Palestinians still insist that Jerusalem is the capital of their expected state. This position is based on international legitimacy, which has stated in the overall resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and General Assembly that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territory.

Undoubtedly, the Israeli challenge vis-a-vis Jerusalem will put the United Nations, through the powers of the secretary general and the Security Council, to a test of credibility and ability to implement international legitimacy without bias or submission so that Jerusalem will not be lost and the talk about Jerusalem will not become a complicated matter, or, indeed, an impossibility. And this is what the enemy is trying to decide now, before embarking on any possible settlement within any kind of framework in the future.

Terry Waite Reportedly To Be Released 'Shortly'

NC2710090490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] A security source has disclosed that British hostage Terry Waite will be released shortly, perhaps before the end of this month.

The source noted that Waite, who was kidnapped three years ago, could be released during the first half of November at the latest, and that the negotiations for his release are taking place quietly and without problems.

Hostages Said Moved 'Outside Greater Beirut'

PM2610154990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Western Hostages Moved From Greater Beirut"]

[Excerpts] Informed political sources have revealed that Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has asked to be excused from forming the accord government expected to be formed in Lebanon shortly. He attributed his position to "health reasons."

The sources said that Al-Huss conveyed his wish to the quarters concerned in Beirut and Damascus. He emphasized that he wanted to take a rest or at least keep away from a job which requires strenuous daily effort. [passage omitted]

It was reported yesterday that the captors of the Western hostages have moved them over the past few days from the southern suburb of Beirut to areas outside "greater Beirut," because if they had remained in the capital the security forces in charge of greater Beirut would have been obliged to storm the places in which the hostages were detained. [passage omitted]

'Awn Said Given Asylum With Government Approval

NC2610150290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni received French Ambassador Rene Ala today. Ala said they discussed two issues—the first connected with the status of Lebanese institutions, ways of strengthening them, and their future; and the second pertaining to Lebanese-French relations.

Responding to a suggestion that France is maintaining a double standard by recognizing the legitimate authorities in Lebanon while at the same time giving sanctuary to former Army Commander Michel 'Awn, Ala said: We constantly support the legitimate government. 'Awn, however, is in the embassy for certain reasons connected with the events of Saturday, 13 October, and connected with the conditions according to which a cease-fire was declared and the army led by General Lahhud entered the area.

Ala added that 'Awn was at that time granted political asylum with the concurrence of the Lebanese authorities. [passage omitted]

Ibrahimi Arrives in Beirut, Meets Al-Hirawi

NC2910151790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut a short time ago. He immediately met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi to discuss measures that are being taken to implement the Greater Beirut Plan, as well as the executive measures the Arab higher committee is required to take to enable the Lebanese authority to establish its authority over all Lebanese territory.

Hizballah's Na'im Qasim on Greater Beirut Plan

NC2610184090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, member of the Lebanese Hizballah's leadership, has voiced support for the Greater Beirut Plan, which is designed to guarantee safety and freedom of opinion for all the Lebanese people. In an interview with Lebanese television yesterday, Shaykh Qasim added that Lebanon's Hizballah is keeping its weapons only for self-defense against the other militias operating in Lebanon. He asserted that entrusting the Lebanese Army with the task of security and implementing the Greater Beirut Plan is a positive step. He added that the party welcomes all measures aimed at establishing security for all citizens. He added: We will not obstruct the Army, nor will we impede the process of establishing justice and equality for all the Lebanese factions.

Replying to a question, Shaykh Qasim said: We will give our response to the question of Hizballah's participation in the new government and the parliament in due time.

As for the political activity of the party in accordance with the law, we hope that others will respect our political activity as much as we respect the political activity of all Lebanese groups, he said.

Touching on the recent meeting between Hizballah and the Amal Movement to resolve their problems under Syria and Iran's supervision, Shaykh Qasim said: The outcome of the meeting was positive and we were able to remove many obstacles that had obstructed understanding between the two sides. He added that the currently proposed solution to resolving the two sides' differences tackles differences over Iqlim al-Tuffah, as well as all other differences between the two sides.

Shaykh Na'im Qasim asserted that the Lebanese Army will be in charge of security in Iqlim al-Tuffah and in the greater part of south Lebanon. He hoped all will cooperate with the Army to liberate all the Zionist-occupied lands.

Hizballah Seeks Political Freedom Guarantees

NC2810080790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Abu-Yasir [Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh], chairman of Hizballah's Political Bureau, has said that Hizballah will never be an obstacle to unifying the country, extending the state's power, and lessening the suffering of the people.

In an interview with AFP, Abu-Yasir said that Hizballah seeks guarantees that there will be political freedom as well as freedom in resistance action against Israel. Abu-Yasir also said that Hizballah wants to know the boundaries of greater Beirut, the mechanism that will be used to implement the Greater Beirut Plan, and the level of seriousness exhibited by the parties concerned. Abu-Yasir also said that Hizballah accepts the new status quo created by the al-Ta'if Agreement.

Qasim Says Lebanese Forces 'Next' After 'Awn

NC2810113290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Hizballah's official spokesman Shaykh Na'im Qasim has emphasized that all eyes are once again focused on the Lebanese Forces and their part of the eastern area. In an interview with the newspaper AL-DIYAR published today, Qasim said that the obstacle lies with the Lebanese Forces, and they need to provide answers about greater Beirut and about ousting the militias. He added: This is the basic obstacle at present. All eyes are focused on the Lebanese Forces. How will they respond? Will they respond based on the existence of effective international pressure which they cannot confront? Or will they find a way to maneuver and thus hamper a solution? We will leave this question until their options are declared and revealed through their actions. Shaykh Qasim added, however: I believe that, after 'Awn, the Lebanese Forces are next. He stated that the solution will be reached when Israel is no longer able to influence the Lebanese situation and, consequently, the problems linked with it are resolved. He noted: Our position on Ja'ja' is clear in that his orientations and ties are dangerous and constitute a crisis in this country.

Birri on Greater Beirut, Palestinian Disarmament

NC2710080190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Minister and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has stated that the Greater Beirut [Plan] must be the pebble in the pond that causes ripples in all of Lebanon, including the south. He said that the Movement's stand on greater Beirut is the same as that of the Cabinet. He described the raising of the issue of the Palestinian camps' security at present as a suspect move. He emphasized that there is absolutely no problem with the Palestinians. He said that greater Beirut constitutes support for the Palestinians and not a move against them. He said: We have never talked about disarming the Palestinians.

In an interview with the BBC's Arabic section, Minister Birri said that reconciliation with everyone, without exception, is what is required. We must rise above the bloodshed in order to safeguard Lebanon's survival. He stressed the need for achieving a Syrian-Iranian decision that will be imposed on the Amal Movement and Hizballah so that the Lebanese solution can be achieved through the legitimate government's presence throughout the south.

In an interview with journalists, Minister Birri said: There is no going back on the implementation of the Cabinet decision on greater Beirut. This does not mean that other issues, such as the formation of a government and the appointment of deputies, should not continue to be discussed. Any backing down by the legitimate government will be a step backward.

Minister Birri also telephoned Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Minister 'Ali al-Khalil, and Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan.

Birri Instructs Amal To Begin Collecting Weapons

NC2910130090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The ministerial committee has continued its contacts in preparation for the establishment of greater Beirut. The positions of the key parties in this regard have been positive so far. Among these positive positions is the Amal Movement's announcement that its leader Minister Nabih Birri has given direct instructions to begin the collection of weapons within three days from today in preparation for their transportation outside Beirut.

The Lebanese Forces have also continued to withdraw their armored vehicles from east Beirut toward Kasrawan and Jubayl.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army, with the support of the Syrian forces, has been reinforcing its deployment in the southern suburb, where most manifestations of armed presence have disappeared.

Junblatt Would Surrender Arms Only to Syrians

NC2710142690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Addressing a delegation from 'Alayh which visited him today, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said that the current stage is critical, and close attention must be paid to every development.

He said: The nightmare of the Suq al-Gharb front is over, and the credit for this goes to our courageous young men and the Syrian Arab Army. The nightmare that threatened the entire area, particularly 'Alayh, is over. Moreover, I believe those who have taken over this area—that is the Army which took over—do not pose a threat to us. On the contrary, the Army provides a guarantee for us. We must embrace this Army. At the same time, if there is to be peace in Lebanon, the Army must be everyone's army. When did the trouble begin in Lebanon? It began when the Army sided with one party against another. The Army must be everyone's army so that we can rest assured that our families' honor, homes, and dignity will be safeguarded. Otherwise we will have accomplished nothing. It will be merely a truce. All of us want peace. We fought; you in 'Alayh fought and sacrificed a great deal. I believe the cost of steadfastness was very heavy in terms of lost possessions, lost livelihoods, and lost lives. All of us want peace and we want 'Alayh to become a model for summer resorts again.

Peace has conditions, however, and I believe we have defined them. We announced them at a meeting in 'Ayn Zhaltah. We also held contacts with the Syrian brother officials. I believe that just as Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad stood by us in the most difficult circumstances in 1983, they will stand by us now. There have been assurances that all the guarantees demanded by the nationalists, particularly the Bani Ma'ruf [the Druze] in Lebanon, have not changed. The guarantees are certainly still there. This matter requires a follow-up with the Syrian leadership.

As we have said before, our guarantee is the Syrian Army. At a later stage we also want the Lebanese Army to become everyone's army. I repeat that we might collect the weapons at this stage, but we will surrender them only to the Syrian Army and only when we have guarantees that the opponents will also surrender their weapons.

Communist Party Ready To Hand Over Arms

NC2910131590 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] has announced its readiness to place its weapons at the disposal of the legitimate government. The LCP expressed hope that all parties to the armed conflict will respond positively to bolster the Lebanese Army, which needs weapons more than any other party so that it may proceed to southern Lebanon, al-Ashrafiyah, and the north to play its role in strengthening Lebanon's unity and to oust the Israeli occupiers from southern Lebanon.

As soon as LCP Secretary General George Hawi returned from Moscow, which he visited at the official invitation of the Soviet Communist Party, he visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He congratulated al-Hirawi on ending the rebellion and briefed him on his talks with the Soviet leadership. [passage omitted]

Sa'adah Sets Deadline To End Al-Matn Situation

NC2710154590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Minister Dr. George Sa'adah said today that the inaction of the legitimate government in exercising control over an area it had regained is an extremely serious indication for the other areas that are supporting legitimacy.

Dr. Sa'adah added: We are not incapable of returning to the areas that had been regained by legitimacy because we can confront force with force. But we believe that only legitimacy has the right to resolve the situation. Dr. Sa'adah stressed that all peaceful means will be utilized on various levels before we resort to other means, adding: If the al-Ta'if accord means a new war, then we are against it. But if it is a door for peace as approved by the deputies, then we will be the first to welcome it.

Dr. Sa'adah set a deadline for ending the anomalous situation in the two al-Matn regions by the end of next week because we can no longer remain silent over the current practices there.

Amal-Hizballah Meet, Discuss Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC2510145990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] In Iqlim al-Tuffah, skirmishes involving Amal and Hizballah positions have been reported. Several villages in the region came under shelling. Amal sources said the villages of 'Arab Salim, Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, Humin al-Fawqa, Sarba, Jurnaya, and Kafr (bid) came under shelling and sniper fire from Hizballah positions, wounding three persons.

In the meantime, efforts are under way to end the ongoing fighting in the region. A meeting, attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, was held yesterday in 'Anjar between delegations from Amal and Hizballah to reach a settlement in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Lebanese Forces Accept Beirut Plan in Principle

NC2610140790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] A Lebanese Forces source has declared that the Lebanese Forces accept the greater Beirut plan in principle. However, he noted the following:

1. Greater Beirut should extend from Bikfayya to 'Alayh along the mountain line. It should also cover the area between Nahr al-Kalb and Nahr al-Awwali, including Iqlim al-Kharrub, so that the road to the south can be opened and Christian refugees can return to their areas.

2. The national accord government stipulated in the al-Ta'if Agreement should be formed as soon as possible.

Lebanese Forces Said Phasing Out Armed Presence

NC2610195290 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Beirut, Oct 26 (AFP)—Two of Lebanon's most influential militias Friday [26 October] took steps to phase out their armed presence from Beirut in keeping with the government's efforts to extend its authority over a reunited capital.

A convoy of tanks and military vehicles of the 10,000-strong Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia left the Lebanese capital along the northern coastal highway towards the port of Juniyah. [passage omitted]

The LF, as well as the the pro-Iranian group Hizballah and the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party, have expressed approval of the government plan.

Hizballah militiamen ruling Beirut's southern suburbs since 1984 Friday traded their military garb for civilian clothes and left their weapons at home, witnesses said.

But the civilian-clad bearded Muslim fundamentalist militants were still manning strategic positions.

A spokesman for the group said they still expected to be summoned by the authorities to discuss the fine points of the Greater Beirut plan. Hizballah still had "some points to work out" with the government, he said.

Syrian Units Deploy Along Old Sidon Road

NC2610145490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Lebanese and Syrian Army units completed their deployment and reinforced their positions along the old Sidon road yesterday. The deployment extended from the al-Tayyunah traffic circle to Sufayr, al-Hadath, and al-Shuwayfat. Lebanese military engineering teams are continuing to remove mines along the roads leading to Nahr al-Kalb tunnel in preparation of reopening it to traffic following the removal of the barriers and ramparts.

Lebanese Forces, Hizballah Begin Withdrawal

NC2610202290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces and Hizballah have begun withdrawing from Beirut and its suburb. The Lebanese Army has reopened the Nahr al-Kalb tunnel on the northern coastal road to traffic after obstacles and mines have been removed.

A process of withdrawal and removal of mines has begun in areas which were considered contact lines in the al-Matn region. Journalists today watched the withdrawal of 20 tanks, five M-113 armored personnel carriers, and trucks belonging to the Lebanese Forces from this front toward Juniyah.

Syrian Forces, Army in South Beirut 'in Force'

NC2810124690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In Beirut's Southern Suburb it has been noticed that the Syrian forces and the Lebanese Army have deployed in force and have set up fixed roadblocks in most areas. Meanwhile, almost no Hizballah gunmen were to be seen.

SSNP, Other Militia Group Activities Reported

NC2610154690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The two al-Matn regions are still experiencing security violations. [passage omitted]

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] has opened a new center for its gunmen in al-Dikwanah, under the command of Mansur Ilyas Makhluf.

The SSNP gunmen are still controlling the Phalangist Party's centers in Qurnat Shahwan, Dik al-Mihdi, Judaydah, Bsalim, and Jal al-Dhi'b. They established a roadblock in front of the Jal al-Dhi'ib center yesterday and forced the citizens to buy AL-ANBA' magazine.

In Qurnat al-Hamra', the SSNP members established a military center on the public road. Ya'qub al-Ra'i and Nabil Abu-Samra are also trying to establish new SSNP centers in Bikfaya and its vicinity. [passage omitted]

Groups loyal to Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee] established a militia center on the top floor of the Murad building in Antilyas Square. Another center was established in a building in Judaydah, where members of Hubayqah's group held a series of meetings.

The Phalangist Party center in al-Hadath is still under the control of Hubayqah's group, which reinforced its military presence in the center.

In another development, the official in charge of the Phalangist Party's center in 'Ayn Sa'adah was found dead this morning. Moreover, the fate of citizen Raymond Nahr is still unknown. He had been kidnapped from his home al-Rawdah by groups loyal to Elie Hubayqah. [passage omitted]

'Awn, Aides' $25 Million Reportedly Seized

NC2510205690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Oct 90

[Text] REUTER has reported that the Lebanese Government has so far seized $25 million which had been deposited in banks in the names of General 'Awn and Brigadiers 'Isam Abu-Jamrah and Edgar Ma'luf.

The agency said the government is also claiming $50 million from 'Awn, who seized the sum illegaly.

Arab Tripartite Committee Members Visit Damascus

Arrive 27 Oct

JN2710115790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali, Saudi Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, members of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, in addition to Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

Confer With Al-Asad

JN2710145990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] At 1215 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Arab foreign ministers and members of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia, Abdellatif Filali of Morocco, and Sid Ahmed Ghazali of Algeria, as well as Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant Arab League secretary general, who is in charge of the Lebanese issue. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algeria in Damascus.

In a statement to reporters, Dr. Filali of Morocco said: As always, we are happy to be in Damascus. It is common knowledge that the tripartite committee is in continuous contact and coordination with the Syrian brothers. We have all carried out a duty that we believe has led to positive results for Lebanese conditions. We are now witnessing a new condition with the end of the rebellion in Lebanon.

Filali said: We come to Damascus to exchange views and begin a dialogue with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials on current Lebanese developments and on implementing what remains of the al-Ta'if agreement in complete coordination with the Syrian brothers.

Asked how the tripartite committee views the end of the rebellion in Lebanon, Dr. Filali said: Ever since the Lebanese brothers reached the al-Ta'if agreement, we have always wished to convince all of the Lebanese brothers to effect peaceful solutions, constructive dialogue, and national reconciliation. However, and to our regret, as everybody knows, 'Awn's position on this aspect was always negative. The action that the Lebanese Government undertook with Syria's assistance is within the sphere of Lebanon's sovereignty. Lebanon has the right to end all rebellions in order to spread its sovereignty all over the Lebanese soil.

Answering another question about the tripartite committee's visit to Lebanon, Filali said: I do not think that our schedule includes a visit to Beirut.

The three foreign ministers and Mr. Ibrahimi arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the heads of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi, Moroccan, and Algerian ambassadors in Damascus.

Depart

JN2710201190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The Moroccan, Saudi Arabian, and Algerian foreign ministers, members of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, as well as Lakhdar Ibrahimi, left Damascus at 1945 today after a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Seeing them off at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the ambassadors of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria in Damascus.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Filali told the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent: The meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was positive and fraternal. We exchanged views regarding the situation in Lebanon.

He added: As I leave Damascus, I can speak of the committee members' optimism about the return of stability to Lebanon both in terms of governmental activity and the desire of all concerned parties in Lebanon to cooperate and start a constructive dialogue to reach a comprehensive and full national accord.

Algeria's Ghazali Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN2710195790 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali at 1700 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Mr. Ghazali conveyed to the president a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The president tasked him with delivering a message in reply.

Talks centered around the Arab situation and issues of mutual interest.

Khaddam Meets With Lebanese Ministers

JN2810164790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Defense Minister Albert Mansur and Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul at 1130 today. Discussion during the meeting revolved around the situation in

Lebanon and the steps taken by Lebanese legitimacy to achieve security, peace, and national reconciliation.

Contacts Reported With Jordan To Face 'Scheme'

JN2710180690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] For the fourth consecutive day, the Syrian media have been continuing their fierce campaign against the United States following last Wednesday's statement by a responsible Syrian spokesman in which he said that the limitless U.S. support for Israel cannot serve peace but encourages invasion and expansion. The statement described linking the huge U.S. assistance to Israel to the Iraqi position toward Kuwait as illogical, lacking convincing argument, and aiming to misinform and draw the world's attention from the serious intentions that Israel is harboring with the support of the United States and some Western nations.

Informed Syrian sources say that U.S. military moves apparently are not only connected with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but that there is a larger scheme to strike at the Arab military and economic capability in which Washington and Tel Aviv are sharing roles—the former against Iraq in the Gulf and the latter against Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan on the eastern front.

It should be noted that the Syrian source's statement indicates that the expanding U.S. military reserves of sophisticated weapons in Israel are intended to be at Israel's disposal when it needs them.

Arab diplomatic sources said that contacts have started between Syria and Jordan to coordinate stances in light of what is being schemed against Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and in light of the new Syrian concept. [passage omitted]

Nation Opposes U.S. Attempt To Weaken Iraq

JN2810174990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] A highly informed source in Damascus has said: Though Syria and Washington agree in their insistence on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, Syria does not accept that the United States use this crisis as a pretext to consolidate Israel's military capability and weaken Iraq's capability. The highly informed source added that, although feeling indignant about the mistakes committed by Iraq in Israel's favor, Syria continues to realize that a potential Arab-Israeli war must place it on the side of Iraq, which is seen as Syria's strategic depth in the absence of Egypt, which signed the Camp David accord with Israel, to face the Zionist enemy, which has never abandoned its aggressive intentions.

The source stressed that Soviet presidential envoy Primakov heard from Damascus about Syria's unequivocal opposition to the destruction of Iraq's economic and military structure through an attack by the foreign forces in the Gulf.

Press Says Support Encourages Israeli Policies

JN2910074990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "With the Events" column AL-BA'TH says: The Zionist investigation commission on the al-Aqsa massacre has held the Palestinian worshipers responsible for the bloodshed in one of Islam's holiest places. The Zionist commission's report is not far from the course of the Western diplomacy which plays a big role in encouraging Israel's policy of killing and aggression. AL-BA'TH notes that President Bush pleaded with Shamir to receive the UN commission and that Shamir rejected his pleas.

AL-BA'TH says: In rejecting Bush's appeal we do not believe that Shamir does not rely on power. He knows that the charter of strategic alliance between America and Israel binds all U.S. administrations not to oppose Israel's military and political policies in the region.

Under the headline "Arming Israel and Washington's Pretexts," AL- BA'TH writes the following in its editorial: There is no need to underscore the blatant contradiction in American policy vis-a-vis the Middle East issues. While the U.S. Administration calls for stability and peace in the region, we find that it is biased toward Israel, encouraging it with weapons. The U.S. Administration used the Gulf crisis as an excuse and pretext to supply Israel with all means of sophisticated military support and billions of dollars to settle the Jewish settlers.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. Administration, which at times tried to mislead the Arabs regarding its relations with Israel, did not succeed at all to convince us of any change in the essence and strategy of these relations, which are based on making Israel strong and superior. It exploited the Gulf crisis as a weak pretext for the process of arming and funding Israel.

AL-BA'TH says: Hence, when Syria warned against the dimensions and dangers of the American support for Israel, it wanted to stress the need to separate the Gulf crisis from the Palestine question. Any support for the enemy—regardless of its type—will harm the Arabs' central cause and give the Zionists more capabilites to continue with the aggression.

Writing on the same subject under the headline "The American Support for Israel," TISHRIN says: Israel profited most as the main beneficiary of the American foreign aid. Israel obtained 30 percent of this aid.

TISHRIN asserts that the United States will continue to embrace Israel; its concern about Israel's security through supplying it with the means and factors of military superiority exceeds its concern about the national American interest. In fact, the United States believes that its security will be shaken if the Israeli security is not fortified. The American approach was reflected on the situation in occupied Palestine. The enemy leaders escalated their threats and reaffirmed their policy of collective punishment, liquidation, annihilation, and deportation against the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territory.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Confronting the results of the unlimited American support for Israel—while everybody is preoccupied with the Gulf crisis—requires a united Arab position, particularly since the Israeli danger excludes nobody among the Arabs. It also requires a revised position to define the appropriate Arab behavior to deter the Zionist aggression.

Commentary Warns Arabs of U.S.-Israeli 'Game'

JN2610164190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: No Arab can accept seeing the United States use the Gulf crisis and its developments to enhance and bolster the Israeli war machine, which is devoted to aggression against the Arabs and expansion at their expense. Likewise, no Arab can accept seeing a linkage established between the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the topping up of the Israeli arms arsenal with the most sophisticated U.S. military equipment and hardware to pave the way for unleashing an Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. How are we to remain silent over the fact that this increased military aid coincides with increasing financial support for Israel, considering that the latter form of aid will help Israel absorb new waves of Jewish immigrants arriving in the occupied Arab territories? This aid will allow Israel to hold on to the occupied territories and enable it to continue rejecting international resolutions and persist in pursuing a policy of annexation, expansion, and aggression that will result in a forced migration of the indigenous population of these territories.

The fact that the massive U.S. buildup in the Gulf coincides with the dispatch of anti-missile missiles and aircraft—not to mention other types of weapons—to Israel shows that there are premeditated, evil intentions that require Arabs to carefully examine the moves going on around them. Some might argue that this massive U.S. buildup and presence in the Gulf was caused by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This might be found plausible. But what are the reasons for this increasing influx of weapons to the regional center of aggression targeting Arabs, which constantly confirms its [Israel's] aggressive and expansionist intentions, perpetrates on a daily basis new massacres against the residents of the occupied homeland, and causes new convoys of Jewish immigrants be settled in the occupied Arab territories using U.S. funds? Does Washington want us to succumb anew to the stale old U.S. argument that giving Israel a sense of security through more armaments and allowing it to maintain military superiority over all Arabs is the only way to push Israel toward peace? Hasn't this misleading U.S. theory shown itself to be false over the past years? For its part, hasn't Israel demonstrated that every new U.S. weapon it gets entices it to perpetrate new acts of aggression and bolsters its intransigence and its opposition to peace?

The Arabs are well aware that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was an unforgivable sin perpetrated against the Arabs and a move that torpedoed the firm foundations of inter-Arab ties and destroyed the bridges of trust, without which there can be no Arab solidarity and without which the Arabs cannot unite in the face of the common danger threatening them. That is why the Arabs have stood firm against this aggression. Fears of some Arabs prompted them to accept a foreign military presence on their lands. But to see this Iraqi sin—whose first, or, rather, sole victims were the Arabs—used by Washington to provide all forms of financial and military support for Israel, the enemy of all Arabs which is constantly lying in wait to perform acts of treachery against them and which seeks to seize every opportunity to undermine them, is something which no Arab can accept and which no logic can find to be sensible.

Our past and historical experience with the Israeli enemy has taught us that this U.S. support will only encourage the Israeli enemy to perpetrate new acts of aggression against the Arabs and to persist in pursuing a policy of expansion and aggression. Hence, the smokescreens in the Gulf should not prevent the Arabs from seeing the growing danger in Israel. Just as they are called upon to join forces to put an end to the Gulf tragedy, the Arabs are asked to show solidarity and close cooperation and to stand firmly against the evil U.S.-Israeli game so that they cannot be surprised. This would be better than seeing the real significance of this dangerous game when it is too late.

Afghanistan

Ministry Denies Pakistani Allegation of Attack

LD2910090390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0502 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 28, BAKHTAR—Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and the following was conveyed to him by director of First Political Division of that ministry.

On October 2, 1990 charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] in Islamabad was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and it was said to him as if the military forces of the RA have launched three Skad rockets on September 26 on Terimangal region which did not entail human and material losses.

The Government of Pakistan is to be informed that no rocket has been launched beyond the borders by the Armed Forces of the RA. The Government of Pakistan must understand that by levelling such baseless accusations it can not conceal the flagrant interventions and aggressions of that country against the RA and thus can not deceive the Pakistani (?and world) public opinion.

The Government of the RA after an all-sided investigation of the case regards this allegation of Pakistani authorities truthless and categorically rejects it.

Masud Outlines Mujahidin Warfare Plan

BK2810103890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 28 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance will hold elections in the country's north before March 21 and its military commanders have agreed on a new plan to topple the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, a top commander said.

Ahmad Shah Masud, 37, the legendary mujahidin commander who arrived in Pakistan for the first time two weeks ago, also said he and bitter mujahidin rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had held a series of meetings here and patched up their differences.

Mr. Masud was speaking late Saturday to a dozen Western journalists in a heavily guarded Jamiat-e Eslami Party stronghold outside this Afghan frontier town swollen with refugees from the war. He said the elections would be held in 13 northern provinces before March 21, the Afghan new year.

"We have agreed on elections to solve the problems among us inside Afghanistan," he said without giving details of how the voting would be organised. "Those who get the majority will serve and rule in that place (where they win)."

Mr. Masud, fellow Jamiat leader Burhanuddin Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar had signed an agreement stipulating that the northern elections would be between only the Jamiat Party and the Hezb-e Eslami of Mr. Hekmatyar, which have fought internecine battles in the past year.

The mujahidin leader said the three had proposed that nationwide elections follow those in the north, adding that whoever lost the polls would agree to serve in the opposition.

Mr. Masud, better known as the "lion of Panjsher" for his numerous victories over Soviet troops in the Panjsher Valley in the Hindu Kush mountains north of Kabul, also virtually ruled out any role for exiled Afghan King Zaher Shah in the new plan. The ageing king would do better to stay where he was, in Italy, he said.

The austere, bearded commander spoke repeatedly of the resistance's "new unified battle plan," agreed on by mujahidin field commanders at a conference inside Afghanistan on October 9-12.

He described a recent offensive on Kabul by Mr. Hekmatyar with Pakistani backing as marred by "weaknesses and defects."

From now on, he said, any attacks on Kabul would be "part of a bigger military plan" involving sabotage and attacks on Kabul's weakest points, including roads countrywide, a guerrilla strategy which had been effective against the Soviet occupation.

Mr. Masud, who commands more than 10,000 men, also said that to date his post-Soviet withdrawal blockades of the Salang highway, Kabul's lifeline to the Soviet frontier, had been "segmented," allowing basic supplies to reach the city.

However he said that he believed the citizens of the capital, with whom he is reputedly popular, would "accept" a total blockade when it was needed "to liberate them" from the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah.

Asked if he did not feel that he was stepping into the lion's den by allying himself with Pakistan-based resistance leaders linked with the U.S. and Pakistani intelligence agencies, he replied that he had come to Pakistan to seek the help of those leaders "and others" for plans drawn up by field commanders, including Western Commander Ismail Khan.

The mujahidin would accept any reasonable ideas, but "never, never any irrational or unreasonable ideas that do not benefit Islam, our religion, and Afghanistan as a whole," he said.

Referring to announced American aid cuts to the resistance and the possibility of an U.S.-Soviet accord on Afghanistan, Mr. Masud said those "pressures" will "not be very effective or visible."

He reminded journalists that the mujahidin had fought without outside assistance after the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979.

"We will continue even if there is no help," he said, "if the forces of the mujahidin are used in an effective and rational manner the (Najibullah) regime will collapse.

"Our goal is to defeat the regime, but if on the way the regime accepts our legitimacy, and accepts what we want, then maybe it will be a different situation," he said after confirming Kabul's claims that he had held talks with senior members of the Najibullah government but "as individuals and not as representatives."

General 'Azimi Meets Soviet Kirghiz Group

LD2610101290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0450 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 25, BAKHTAR—Full General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, first deputy defence minister, had a meeting with a delegation of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic headed by A.B. Ekonovich. The delegation had recently arrived in Kabul to take part in the celebration ceremony of the Soviet people friendship week in Afghanistan and international solidarity days with the Afghan people.

During the meeting, the sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

Based on another report, the Kirghiz high-ranking delegation had separate meetings with Salim Jarmal, secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan "DYOA" and Nafas Jaheed chairman of the Watan Nursery "state orphanage".

During the meeting the sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

Salim Jarmal informed the guest delegation about the preparedness on the forthcoming (?first) congress of the DYOA.

The delegation during its meeting with N. Jaheed has handed over its gifs to the Watan Nursery children.

Furthermore, the Kirghiz delegation today participated in the inaugural cermony of the Afghan-Soviet Kirghiz handicrafts exhibition opened on the occasion of the Afghan-Soviet friendship week as well as international solidarity days with the Afghan people.

In this three-day exhibition about 200 pieces of handicrafts of the Kirghiz Soviet Republic have been put on display.

Delegation Returns From Visit to the USSR

LD2810225890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The press office of the premiership reported to BAKHTAR that esteemed Dr. 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and head of the Afghan section of the Permanent Commission for Economic Cooperation Between the Afghan and Soviet Governments, who was head of a delegation visiting Tashkent, capital of Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], returned to Kabul this morning. During the visit, he and his accompanying delegation met and conducted talks on bilateral and fruitful cooperation with the deputy prime minister of the Uzbek SSR and representatives of Turkmen and Tajik SSRs. The two sides agreed on the expansion of direct cooperation for the creation of facilities and acceleration of economic and cultural cooperation and the expansion of trade through the private sector. They signed a note of understanding with the representatives of the Uzbek, Tajik, and Turkmen SSRs. A protocol was signed separately on the development of bilateral direct cooperation with Uzbek SSR.

During the stay, the president of the Uzbek SSR met with the leader and members of the Afghan delegation. The ministers of foreign affairs of Turkmen and Tajik SSRs were also present at the meeting. Information was exchanged on the expansion of cooperation between Uzbek SSR and its provinces with the provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, Dr 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi met with esteemed (Khosialov), deputy chairman of the Soviet section of the commission. They exchanged views and conducted talks on the cooperation projects and issues for 1991. Daud Razmyar, ambassador of Afghanistan to the Soviet Union and Pastokhov, Soviet ambassador to Kabul, also took part in the talks.

India

Domestic Plan To Build AWACS Aircraft

BK2710041090 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 7 Oct 90 p 1

[By Man Mohan]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 6—India is trying to build its own Air-borne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS).

This is in view of Pakistan's hectic efforts for the past several years to get AWACS from the USA for using it mainly on its borders touching India.

AWACS is basically an air platform with the potential of long-range high-or-low-level surveillance in the enemy territory. It is an effective mobile, flexible and jamming-resistant high-capacity radar station, command control and communication centre.

Such and airborne system can carry out surveillance of all air vehicles, manned or unmanned, and provide detection, tracking and identification capability within its range during all weathers and over all kinds of terrain.

Modern AWACS is able to support a variety of tactical and air defence missions with no change in configuration. Its data storage and processing capabilities can provide real-time assessment of enemy actions.

An AWACS does not have to enter the enemy's air-territory' it can, by keeping itself within the country's territory, keep an eye on what is going on the other side of the border.

India has made a humble beginning for developing its own AWACS. In its aeronautical centre, Bangalore, a defence laboratory is busy building the country's first prototype AWACS.

Although this AWACS is at a middle-stage of development, the prototype is likely to go for trials in mid-1991.

As an AWACS is a frightfully costly affair, a beginning is being made to have an AWACS within the frame of old trusted AVRO aircraft. A success will open the way for India trying out modern aircraft frames to fit in an AWACS, which will ensure a very deep surveillance inside the enemy's territory. With an AVRO—AWACS, the India Air Force may be able to look about 200 km inside Pakistan's airspace.

As the IAF [Indian Air Force] possesses a number of AVROs, the best flying machine among them was picked up, and given to the defence laboratory for converting it into an AWACS.

Some time also, this AVRO-AWACS took some shape; two disc antennas with deep surveillance capabilities were installed on the top of the aircraft. The Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment [ASTE] located in Bangalore, carried out some flights of this AWACS plane. The flights functioned fine. The ASTE is the organisation which carries out flight evaluation of all aircraft, their systems and weapons before they are inducted into the services.

More flights of AVRO-AWACS will be carried out by the ASTE when a radar will be installed in the aircraft. Two different laboratories are working on complex avionics to install them within the aircraft frame.

Although Pakistan does not posses an AWACS, despite its best efforts to get one from the West, it can always depend on Saudi Arabia in case of a war. Saudi Arabia reportedly has some AWACS plans which it acquired from the USA.

For the Indian Air Force, as AWACS will prove to be a tremendous force multiplier. Though it is believed that whichever side gets an AWACS, an asymmetry sets in for the other immediately, it is not the question of getting only the platform, it needs integration with air defence systems.

And in today's modern warfare, an AWACS is not only a defensive system but an offensive one also because it can guide the country's strike forces clear of the threat areas.

In a interview to the INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW some time ago, IAF chief, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Mehra, had said: "Now one answer to an AWACS capability is another AWACS to balance the asymmetry". In his opinion, an AWACS is frightfully expensive system in not only purchases but also in its operation.

Parties Air Stands on Political Crisis

BK2610162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The political scene in the capital is warming up with various parties indicating their strategy for the forthcoming special session of the Lok Sabha on the 7th of next month. The session has been convened to give an opportunity to Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh to prove his majority on the floor of the house. Charges and counter-charges from political parties over the Ayodhya temple issue have also intensified.

The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has said that it had given a notice of no-confidence in the government to the Lok Sabha speaker. The BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, told newsmen his party wants dissolution of the Lok Sabha and holding of a mid-term poll. He, however, said that change in the leadership of the National Front parliamentary party is the Front's internal affair. Mr. Vajpayee accused the government of going back on the understanding reached for allowing Mr. Advani's rath yatra [charity journey] to Ayodhya and symbolic undertaking of kar seva [voluntary community service to build temple] at the shilanyas [foundation] site. He said the BJP agreed that the volunteers will not damage the disputed structure. Answering a question, Mr. Vajpayee criticized the way the ordinance on the temple land was withdrawn. He also criticized the manner in which the presidential communique was issued on the methodology for testing the majority of the government on the floor of the Lok Sabha. He alleged that the government is misusing the electronic media and demanded a TV debate with the prime minister over the Ayodhya temple issue.

The Congress-I had already given notice for a motion of no-confidence in the government. Its parliamentary party secretary today urged the president to advance the special session of the Lok Sabha slated for the 7th of next month. He said the time given to the prime minister for proving his majority is too long and alleged that this period is being utilized for horse trading.

The Janata Dal has charged both the Congress-I and the BJP with not expressing their concern for the aggravating communal situation. It also said that both the BJP and the Congress-I are only concerned with the change of the leadership of the National Front parliamentary party. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, asked: Will the BJP reverse its stand on the Ram temple if the National Front parliamentary party changes its leader?

Referring to the Congress-I's indication that it would not oppose the government, if the leader is changed, the spokesman said it is only a tactical ploy. About a mid-term poll, Mr. Reddy said it is not desirable at the present juncture, but if it is imposed, it cannot be avoided. Answering a question, he said Mr. Devi Lal had assured his full support to Mr. V.P. Singh.

In another development, a senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chadra Shekhar, called on the president, Mr. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] this evening. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes.

Another senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Devi Lal, has ruled out the possibility of a mid-term poll saying no party is prepared for it. He told newsmen that he had a meeting with the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajapyee, and discussed with him the current political situation in the country. Another Janata Dal leader, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, said he does not rule out the possibility of either the BJP or the Congress-I supporting the National Front government after a change in the leadership of the Janata Dal parliamentary party. Replying to query from newsmen on such a possibility, he said he is not ruling out, while at the same time not suggesting such a course.

Army Called Out in Ranchi After More Violence

BK2810125690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In Bihar, the Army has been called out in the curfew-bound Ranchi city, following fresh incidents of violence, bomb blasts, and police firing.

According to official sources, one person was killed in the police firing and four injured in the mob violence today. The indefinite curfew clamped in seven police station areas of the city continues. The situation is stated to be tense, but under control.

The chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, reviewed the law and order situation in the city at a high-level meeting in Patna.

Punjab Separatist Violence Leaves 24 Dead

BK2710034790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1831 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 26 (AFP)—Twenty-four people, including six Sikh militants and two policemen, were killed in separatist-linked violence in the northern state of Punjab late Thursday and Friday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Two militants shot dead an assistant sub-inspector of police and seriously injured a constable in Punjab's Ludhiana district Friday, police were quoted as saying.

An unspecified number of militants fired indiscriminately at Shivpuri village in Kapurthala district Friday, leaving two people dead and one more seriously injured, PTI said.

An unidentified militant died when a bomb he was carrying on his bicycle suddenly exploded in Gurdaspur district Friday.

The remaining 20 people, including five Sikh militants and a policeman, were killed in a number of incidents overnight Thursday-Friday, the agency said.

Some 2,150 people have died in violence linked to the bloody Sikh militant campaign for an independent Sikh homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure in Punjab so far this year.

Gandhi Wants Rajasthan Government Dismissal

BK2610150690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has demanded the dismissal of the Rajasthan government and imposition of president's rule in the state. In a statement issued in New Delhi, he alleged that the state administration has completely failed in controlling large-scale violence in Jaipur provoked by communal elements. Mr. Gandhi alleged that the state authorities are colluding with the anti-social elements.

Janata Dal Reaffirms Opposition to Snap Poll

BK2710164290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The Janata Dal has charged the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Congress-I with trying to create conditions that will make a snap poll inescapable. The party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the Janata Dal will however do its best to avert such an eventuality. He said Mr. Devi Lal has agreed not to press his resignation from the Lok Sabha and to attend the special session of the house.

The former deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, called on the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in New Delhi today. According to Mr. Devi Lal, he has suggested to the prime minister a plan to solve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [Mosque-Temple] issue.

The senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandrashekhar, has said if there was any agreement between the BJP and the central government on Mr. Advani's Rath Yatra [chariot journey to the disputed shrine], it should be made public. He was talking to newsmen in New Delhi today.

Janata Dal Ministers Quit BJP-Led Coalition

BK2610132290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, 10 of the 12 Janata Dal ministers have submitted their resignations to the chief minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, from the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-led coalition government. The remaining two ministers, who are out of Jaipur, will submit their resignations later. The resignation follows the Janata Dal high command's decision to part ways with the BJP.

Janata Dal Deputies Ask for Singh Resignation

*BK2610131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 26 Oct 90*

[Text] Four Janata Dal members of parliament have urged a change in the leadership of the party. In a letter addressed to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, they said that he should step down from the leadership of the party and allow the party to elect a new leader in order to save the party and relieve the nation from the present agony. The signatories to the letter include Mr. A.K. Sen from Rajya Sabha and Mr. Rajmangal Pandey, Mr. Shakilur Rahman, and Mr. Hari Keval Prasad, all from the Lok Sabha.

Environment Minister Urges Singh To Step Down

*BK2610155490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1540 GMT 26 Oct 90*

[Text] A message just received says the minister of state for environment and forest, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, has resigned. She told our correspondent a short while ago that she has submitted her resignation letter to the prime minister. She also said that a minority government has no moral authority to continue in office and asked the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, also to step down.

Singh Resignation Demand Refuted by Official

*BK2710040990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 Oct 90*

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has described as absolutely irresponsible the letter written by three Janata Dal MPs [members of parliament] asking the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to step down and allow the party to elect a new leader. Mr. Basu questioned the justification of electing a new leader in the prevailing political situation in the country.

Congress-I Deputies Demand Singh Resignation

*BK2710130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Oct 90*

[Text] Over 50 Congress-I members of Parliament have demanded the resignation of the prime minister. In a joint statement, they said that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has exposed what they called the secret pact between the prime minister and the BJP, promising a safe passage to Mr. L.K. Advani to Ayodhya.

The signatories to the statement include Mr. V.N. Gadgil, Mr. M.J. Akbar, Mr. Chidambaram, Mr. Santosh Mohan Deo, Mr. B. Shankaranand, and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Janata Dal Solons Demand Singh Resignation

*BK2810145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 28 Oct 90*

[Text] Consultations among Janata Dal leaders continued in the capital today, even as 12 party MP's [members of parliament] have demanded a change in the leadership of the Janata Dal parliamentary party. The senior party leader, Mr. Chandrashekhar, had a meeting with the Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, and discussed the current political situation. Mr. Patnaik, who arrived in New Delhi last night, also met the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, this morning. Union ministers Mr. Nilamani Routray, Mr. Bhagya Gowardhan, and Srikanth Jainam also met Mr. Patnaik.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Chandrashekhar said that a mid-term poll should be considered only if it becomes inescapable to resolve the crisis at the center. He said he will try his level best to avoid a split in the Janata Dal.

Meanwhile, 12 Janata Dal MP's have demanded that Mr. V.P. Singh should step down. Addressing a joint press conference in New Delhi this evening, they said this will help avoid a mid-term poll in the country. They described yesterday's report that 100 Janata Dal MP's have expressed support to Mr. V.P. Singh as wrong. They accused the prime minister's office of spreading disinformation about the support to him. They also accused misuse of the electronic media by the government.

Singh Given Notice of Confidence Motion

*BK2710085690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Oct 90*

[Text] The government has given notice of the motion seeking confidence of the Lok Sabha in the Council of Ministers headed by Mr. V.P. Singh. The notice of the one-line motion was given by the prime minister and it reads that this house expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers. The Lok Sabha has been convened for a special one-day session on 7 November on the directive of the president to Mr. V.P. Singh to prove his majority following the withdrawal of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] support to the National Front government. The Congress-I and the BJP have already given notice of no-confidence motions against the government.

Singh Ready To Sit in Opposition if Ousted

*BK2710162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Oct 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that he is not recommending dissolution of the Lok Sabha and if the government loses the confidence motion, the National Front will sit in the opposition. Addressing a meeting of the Council of Ministers in New Delhi this morning, Mr. Singh made it clear that an alternative government may emerge only if the congress-I and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] come together. He reiterated that he will continue to uphold secularism, Constitution, and rule of law and is prepared to pay the price for it.

The prime minister said the leadership of the National Front and Janata Dal had directed him not to resign after the withdrawal of support by the BJP but face parliament. He said if he had any desire to stick to the chair, he could have compromised on BJP and Vishwa Hindu Parishad's [VHP's] demands.

Analyzing the political situation, Mr. V.P. Singh said the National Front took a principled stand on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [Temple-Mosque] issue after due consideration. He regretted that the BJP and VHP did not accept government's offer to give undisputed land for the construction of the Ram Temple and they are not even agreeable to accept the court verdict.

The prime minister criticized the Congress-I for trying to divide the Janata Dal and appealed to the party to be united and face the challenge.

Giving details of the meeting, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P. Upendra, said the Council of Ministers was surprised that the Congress-I and the BJP have gone to the extent of making preposterous demand for change in the leadership of the Janata Dal and the National Front. In a statement, the minister said the two parties have initiated identical moves to destabilize the National Front government and their demand only exposes them. He regretted that a small section of the Janata Dal is also being utilized for these manipulations.

Mr. Upendra said the Council of Ministers gave firm support to the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh and made it clear that it is not negotiable.

Singh Vows To Work for Justice Even if Ousted

BK2710130590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, says whether he remains in office or not, he would continue to fight for equality and social justice. Addressing a rally of Janata Dal workers in New Delhi today, he said the National Front government, during the last 10 months, has taken a number of steps to administer social, economic, and political justice.

Government To Maintain Peace in Temple Dispute

BK2610151690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Faizabad in Ayodhya city from 1900 this evening as a precautionary measure in view of the situation arising out of the kar seva [voluntary community service to build Hindu temple at mosque site] on the 30th of this month. According to official sources the situation otherwise in the twin cities is normal. The district magistrate of Faizabad has appealed to maintain peace and cooperate with the administration.

The Bharat Sadhu Samaj [Hindu religious body] has called upon the leaders of both communities to find an amicable solution to the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] controversy through dialogue. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the general secretary of the Bharat Sadhu Samaj, Swami Hari Narayannand, said that the age-old traditional amity and communal harmony should be maintained.

The center has set up a high-level group to monitor the situation arising out of the Ayodhya temple issue and the general law and order arrangements. The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, will be visiting Jaipur and Jodhpur which has witnessed large-scale violence during and after the bharat-bundh [nationwide strike] called by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] on Wednesday [24 October]. The Union Cabinet and the cabinet committee on political affairs met in New Delhi this morning separately and took stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound Jaipur is tense but under control. According to the district collector, no untoward incident was reported. Curfew continued for the third day in the walled city and the Shastri Nagar areas. The army is helping the civil authorities in maintaining law and order. The curfew also continues in Jodhpur and Beawar towns.

Steps Taken To Meet Problems in Ayodhya

BK2910100090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the administration is fully equipped to meet any eventuality arising out of the proposed Kar Seva [voluntary social service in building the temple] at the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya tomorrow. The commissioner of Faizabad division told our correspondent that all possible measures have been taken to prevent unwanted elements from entering the city. A special squad of the National Security Guard has been deployed in and around the disputed site in Ayodhya. The army staged a flag march in seven sensitive towns of the state yesterday in order to instill confidence among the people. Preventive arrests are continuing in apprehension of breach of peace in different districts of the state.

Meanwhile, the situation in the twin cities of Ayodhya and Faizabad is peaceful. Curfew was relaxed for three hours in Ayodhya from 0400 this morning.

The chief minister, Mr. Mulayem Singh Yadav, has appealed to the people to observe restraint and not to be misled by elements creating tension and violence in the state. He directed the district administration to take stern action against those found spreading rumors. Talking to our Lucknow correspondent, the chief minister asserted that it is the constitutional obligation of the government to protect the lives and property of all. He urged the people to understand the complications of the government and regretted inconvenience being caused to the people due to the change in transport routes and

[non] availability of essential commodities. In reply to a question, Mr. Yadav denied the change in the existing structure of Shri Rama Silanyas [foundation] in Ayodhya. He said it is a handiwork of rumor mongers who are trying to create tension in the state.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, could not leave New Delhi for Lucknow this morning for proceeding to Ayodhya as he could return to the capital very late from his tour to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The party general secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said the Tamil Nadu Express in which Mr. Vajpayee was returning was stopped at Bina in Madhya Pradesh and (?held) back to Bhopal. He said Mr. Vajpayee reached New Delhi by the morning flight; but by that time the Lucknow plane had left. He will now be leaving for Lucknow along with the party leader, Mr. Kedar Nath Sahni, this evening.

'Red Alert' in Uttar Pradesh on Temple Issue

BK2910044790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh a red alert has been sounded throughout the state in view of the prevailing law and order situation. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Lucknow correspondent that the army staged a flag march in seven sensitive towns yesterday in order to instill confidence among the people. Security arrangements have been reviewed to meet any eventuality in the state. A special squad of national security guards has been deployed in and around the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya. Closed circuit TVs have also been installed in and around the disputed place to monitor the law and order situation.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Ayodhya and Faizabad continues to be peaceful. Security arrangements in both cities within a radius of 20 kilometers have been further strengthened. Preventive arrests are to continue in apprehension of a breach of peace in the different districts of the state.

BJP Head Denies Secret Pact on Shrine Issue

BK2810134290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has denied he had any secret pact with the National Front government on the Ayodhya issue. Speaking at a news conference in Bhopal today, he said that at a news conference on Friday [26 October] in Delhi, he had talked about having reached some kind of understanding with the government on Mr. Advani's rath yatra [chariot journey] and that had nothing to do with the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. Mr. Vajpayee said this understanding was on the basis of his talks with some prominent Janata Dal leaders both at the state and central levels on the 20th of this month. He disclosed that the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] governor, Mr. Reddy, was the first to call on him this afternoon.

Government Denies Deal With BJP on Temple

BK2910053490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The government has denied that there was any secret deal with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, on the Ayodhya temple issue or the proposed karsewa [worship]. Sources close to the prime minister pointed out that the government has always followed the principled stand on the Ram Janmabhoomi- Babri Masjid dispute. It has been making efforts to reach an amicable settlement. Failing in these efforts, the government is bound to abide by the High Court verdict to maintain the status quo till a final verdict is delivered on the dispute.

Government Donation to Delhi Mosque Denied

BK2810161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Official sources in New Delhi have denied the allegation that money is being given as donation to the Jama Masjid [grand mosque in Delhi] by the government. Commenting on an advertisement in an English daily today, the sources pointed out that since 1956 the Archaelogical Survey of India is carrying out repair works at the monument. It is being done to preserve the historic and cultural character and to ensure that the originality of the religious place is retained. The sources also indicated that the government is spending money on the maintenance of the Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh and Mayerghat in Calcutta.

Congress-I Says BJP Exploiting Temple Issue

BK2910055190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] of exploiting the Babri Masjid- Ram Janmabhoomi [disputed shrine] issue for its immediate political gains. In a statement, he said the manner in which the BJP has provoked the dispute has created fear and violence in the country unknown since independence. He warned that any attempt to construct the Ram temple after demolishing the Babri Masjid [mosque] will create an irreparable divide between Hindus and Muslims.

BJP Unit Leader Arrested on Way to Ayodhya

BK2710164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The president of the Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yajna Samiti [Hindu Committee for the Liberation of Lord Ram's Birthplace], Mahant Avaidyanath; Swami Chinmayanand; and the Delhi state unit president of the

BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, were arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police while proceeding to Ayodhya at different places. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] working president, Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia, was also arrested by the police, apprehending breach of peace. The number of arrests in the state has been officially put at 60,000, but the VHP has claimed a much higher number.

BJP Official Arrested on Way to Ayodhya

BK2810131190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The vice president of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], Mrs. Vijaya Raje Scindia, was arrested in Chitrakoot, near Karvi in Banda District of Uttar Pradesh [U.P.] this afternoon. She was going to Ayodhya after crossing the M.P. [Madhya Pradesh]-U.P. border. Mr. Kalkadas, MP [member of Parliament], was also arrested at Delhi-Ghaziabad border, while proceeding to Aydodhya along with 1,500 Kar Sevaks [social work to build a temple in Ayodhya].

BJP Head Denies Secret Pact on Shrine Issue

BK2810134290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has denied he had any secret pact with the National Front government on the Ayodhya issue. Speaking at a news conference in Bhopal today, he said that at a news conference on Friday [26 October] in Delhi, he had talked about having reached some kind of understanding with the government on Mr. Advani's rath yatra [chariot journey] and that had nothing to do with the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. Mr. Vajpayee said this understanding was on the basis of his talks with some prominent Janata Dal leaders both at the state and central levels on the 20th of this month. He disclosed that the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] governor, Mr. Reddy, was the first to call on him this afternoon.

BJP Local Leader Immolates Self Over Temple

BK2710050290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0433 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 27 (AFP)—A local leader of India's main Hindu-revivalist party set himself on fire to protest a government ban on plans to build a Hindu temple on the site of a 16th century mosque, party officials said Saturday.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) activist Kewal Krishan Kapoor torched himself Friday night and was hospitalised with burns on his entire body, BJP leader Madan Lal Khurana said.

Mr. Kapoor was general secretary of BJP's local Shakarpur district chapter in New Delhi, Mr. Khurana said, adding that the politician attempted suicide to protest the arrest of party president Lal Krishan Advani. He has no chance of survival, said doctors treating Mr. Kapoor in a guarded Delhi hospital where dozens of BJP activists gathered early Saturday.

Another BJP activist set himself on fire Wednesday in the southern town of Madurai to protest against the temple-building ban.

The government arrested Mr. Advani and hundreds of Hindus to prevent them from reaching the northern town of Ayodhya where the BJP planned to build a temple on the Moslem shrine site starting October 30.

In retaliation, the BJP cut off the parliamentary support sustaining Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's 11-month government Tuesday and sponsored a violent nationwide general strike the next day which claimed 80 lives.

New Delhi has also deployed thousands of police and paramilitary troopers in Ayodhya and banned people from visiting the site of the disputed shrine.

Hindu Leaders Arrested en Route to Ayodhya

BK2710091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh police today arrested several persons including the president of the Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yajna Samiti, Mahant Avaidyanath, and Swami Chinmayanand while they were proceeding to Ayodhya. A police spokesman said that they have been taken into custody apprehending a breach of peace. The Ram Kar Seva Samiti has alleged that several leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, including its working president, Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia, have been arrested in the state. According to the police, preventive arrests are continuing in different parts of the state and vigil has been stepped up in sensitive pockets. Meanwhile, additional police have been deployed in Aligarh following some incidents of arson and stone throwing.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has asked the center and the Uttar Pradesh government to halt the repressive measures and allow Kar Seva [voluntary social service to build the temple] in Ayodhya. Speaking at a news conference in Ahmedabad today, Mr. Vajpayee said even now it is not too late for the government to retract its steps and release all those who have been detained. He demanded the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and the holding of a mid-term poll in view of the present political uncertainty at the center. He said that a mid-term poll is the only way out of the present political impasse.

The Haryana BJP president and the leader of the party in the state assembly, Dr. Mangal Sen, has strongly deplored the imposition of curfew in Ayodhya and Faizabad. Speaking at a press conference in Rohtak today, he criticized the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayem Singh Yadav, for, what he said, was denying the people of their fundamental right to worship and movement.

Iran

British Embassy in Tehran Reopens 28 Oct

LD2810094190 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—The British Embassy in Tehran reopened here Sunday morning after being closed for more than a year and half and is to be run by a charge d'affaires.

In a special ceremony Swedish Ambassador to Tehran Hakan Granqvist brought down the Swedish flag which was hoisted on the embassy compound in downtown Tehran since March 7, 1989. The British flag was then hoisted by David N. Reddoway who is to act as charge d'affaires and counsellor.

Sweden ran the British interest section during the closure of the British Embassy.

Reddoway, 38 has served in Iran twice, the final three years of the toppled Shah and for a brief period in 1988 when the British Embassy was reopened.

The Iranian Embassy is to reopen in London Monday [29 October] morning and the Iranian diplomats are expected in London on Sunday.

In an interview with IRNA during the reopening ceremony, Reddoway said that the two countries had much to offer to each other and both could benefit from normal relationships in political, commercial and economic terms.

Asked about the fate of an Iranian student, Mehrdad Kowkabi, imprisoned in London, the British diplomat said, "Mr Kowkabi is due to come on trial, I think in January. Meanwhile, he has had his case considered in a number of public courts, but the actual trial is due to start in January. I have to emphasize that this is a normal trial."

The British diplomat added "Mr. Kowkabi's trial is not a political matter." "I do not think there is in fact any connection between the two cases," he said referring to the case of Roger Cooper a Briton jailed in Iran on spying charges and Kowkabi.

After having survived many problems in post-revolution period, Tehran-London relations were finally broken March 1989 after a week-long notice by the Iranian Majles (parliament) as a result of Britain's support for the apostate Salman Rushdie and refusal to announce its respect for Islam.

Normalization of relations came after British Secretary of State Douglas Hurd met his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati in U.N. headquarters last September. The meeting came after British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for a second time personally and officially anounced here [as received] respect for Islam.

UN Envoy Notes Commitment to UN Resolutions

LD2810105190 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 28, IRNA—A senior Iranian official said here Sunday [28 October] that Iran considers Soviet efforts to settle the Persian Gulf crisis through political means, as a positive initiative and welcomes any move which ends the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait.

Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi also reiterated that Iran is committed to all U.N. resolutions and has always called for immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

He stressed that all countries should unsparingly help prevent the crisis from becoming further complicated.

He emphasized that in the light of critical and dangerous conditions in the region, Iraq must return to the pre-August 2 borders.

On the latest resolution being discussed at the Security Council dealing with the Persian Gulf crisis, he said that it demands Iraq to compensate for the financial losses recurred by its occupation of Kuwait.

The resolution was to be approved Saturday night session of the Security Council but was postponed until Monday.

Velayati Receives Message From Saudi Minister

LD2710175790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, Arabia's Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs, who arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation last night, today held a meeting with Mr. Velayati in which he submitted a message from Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Arabian foreign minister, to our country's foreign minister and discussed matters relating to the hajj, the regional situation, and bilateral relations.

In the meeting, Mr. Velayati described as positive the sending to Iran of a special envoy by the Saudi Arabian Government, and he said: We have always stressed the importance of a correct hajj which is accompanied by a disavowal of infidels. On this issue, we are of the opinion that the question of holding full and correct hajj ceremonies in accordance with the beliefs of Muslims can help resolve problems.

About the regional situation, the foreign minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has condemned the invasion of Kuwait from the start. It considers the presence of foreign forces in the region to be unacceptable, and believes that that presence will cause irreversible long-term damage. For that reason, the region's security must be maintained by the countries of the region.

Paper Urges Caution in Saudi Rapprochement

LD2910102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—A morning daily Monday [29 October] said that if the Saudis are after improving their ties with Iran, they must be attentive to sensitivity of Muslims and take a lesson from their support for the aggressors in the past.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in a political commentary titled "Riyadh and Improvement of Ties", argued over recent gesture of the Saudi Governemnt—sending of a senior official to Tehran with a message from Saudi foreign minister for his Iranian counterpart.

The question is what is the purpose of Saudi Arabia in its recent move and what is it after? Is this is a move for domestic purposes or outcome of other sessions? asked the paper.

It continued that Iran as the most powerful country in the region enjoys special strategic importance and, therefore, belligerent parties in the current persian Gulf crisis, including Saudi Arabia, are eager to expand their relations with Iran. But, the daily stressed, there are certain points whose acceptance by Saudis are necessary from Iran's point of view, if the ties are to be resumed.

The most important point, the daily said, is Iran's concern over presence of foreign forces, especially Americans, in Saudi Arabi which is similar to military occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and is even worse.

Another cause of concern, added the article, is the issue of hajj. It is not clear yet what form it will take with the presence of foreign forces in the holy lands against whom the pilgrims want to express antipathy. If the Saudis are to adopt the policy of previous years towards the Iranian pilgrims, they are trying in vain, it added.

Therefore, a well calculated and careful attitude should be taken towards the Saudis because the Saudi rulers have proven to be unreliable, concluded the article.

Japanese Emissary Brings Message From Kaifu

NC2910075690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Japanese Foreign Ministry adviser and emissary of the Japanese prime minister arrived in Tehran last night at midnight to convey a written message from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He was received by our deputy foreign minister and the Japanese ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During his stay in Tehran, he will meet our foreign minister and the Central Bank governor and will discuss broadening bilateral relations, mutual cooperation, and regional issues.

Yazdi Gives Second Friday Prayer Sermon 26 Oct

LD2610185690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1203 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Second Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch, at Tehran University on 26 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse] With greetings on the auspicious birthday anniversary of His Holiness [Imam] Askari [the 11th Imam], may God's peace be upon him, to the gracious presence of the Lord of the Age [the hidden imam] and to all Shi'ites, in this sermon I will, as usual, bring to your honorable attention several issues in order, possibly, of importance.

First, some brief remarks about the very timely and appropriate words of the honorable leader, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, pointing out the important focus of those words: Tremendous respect for the Majles was shown in his eminence's words. There was also appropriate and suitable respect for the honorable Majles deputies. His analysis regarding the Majles is that it is a place where our hopes rest and that it serves as a trench for the nation. We are all familiar with the words of his eminence the Imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, about the importance of the Majles. It is a product of people's prayers.

Those chosen by the people, the selected representatives of the people, are there. All decisions must be made in the Majles. Other analyses have identified the importance of that great body. It is natural that the credibility and value of such a body is directly linked to the credibility and worthiness of the honorable deputies and members of the Majles. In the words of the eminent leader, a high degree of respect is also given to Majles deputies, with the effect that, [changes thought] of course, the majority of the people serving in the Majles today definitely have a sense of responsibility and they are working for the fulfillment of their shari'a duty. That is a reason for commendation. Not only is the Majles a high and lofty place in the Islamic system, but deputies, too, hold lofty positions.

However, there is a problem. This may be a very simplistic way of putting it, but respect for the family name must be preserved by the family. If when, God forbid, the credibility of and respect for the Majles is given to people who are expected to fully behave in an Islamic way, in a sensible and reasonable way, in a humane way; and they then deviate from that path and do not maintain that respect, that will inevitably not only inflict a blow on the Majles, but the prestige of the Majles, the deputies, and the entire system will all suffer a blow. It is evident that anyone who uses that sacred podium must pay tremendous attention to the fact that that great blessing exists only in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In no other place in the world is there such a free podium from which everything can be clearly and openly said for the whole world to hear. Respect for this great blessing, which exists in this system, must naturally be maintained.

The things which are said, the discussions which are raised, the debates which occur, must be well judged. Care must be taken. The Islamic nature of the Majles must be respected. The word assembly, as qualified by the word Islamic, must be respected. It should not be the case that a person or persons come and tread on everything on the basis of personal views and tastes and, it must be said, abuse that sacred podium.

That podium was not easily won. The podium was won at the cost of tens of thousands of martyrs, thousands of people missing in action, thousands of POW's. You saw for yourselves in recent days what difficulties the dear freed men who returned to our country endured, and all the damage with which you are all familiar. That free and sacred podium, which is put at someone's disposal, belongs to the system; belongs to society, the nation, the system; and if the people are not respected, it is clear that, as the leader gracously said, our people will never allow anyone to take advantage of that podium to the extent that the pure sanctities of our system are brought into question. That cannot be endured by our people. [crowd chants in support]

Please allow me to relate to you from this sacred platform a case from the period during which I myself was present in the Majles. Perhaps most of those who are familiar with the Majles debates have kept themselves current. Nevertheless, it would be better if I brought this case to your attention. Conditions arose during which debates and deliberations inside the Majles were being exploited by the enemies of the Islamic revolution. His eminence the imam, may God bless his soul, had repeatedly advised them to respect each other, refrain from quarrels and arguments, and to maintain their solidarity. [passage omitted] One day, a certain gentleman, whom as we witnessed a while ago was thrown out of the Majles by a near unanimous vote of the Majles deputies—uttered a remark—a remark which still remains on the agenda. He had hurled the greatest insult at the most sublime rank of clericalism. His remark was brief, but its connotation was extremely grave. It manifested the existence of those who worked in the guise of Moddaras, but whose character resembled that of Reza Khan.

The degree of my repulsion on that occasion was such that I found myself unable to do anything. I could not see any problems in raising my voice and arguing, hence creating some kind of discord. But I kept hearing the imam's repeated advice, cautioning us to refrain from quarreling.

I went to see the imam, and asked him whether one should keep quiet even on such occasions, after briefing him on the incident. The countenance of his eminence the imam, may God's blessing be upon him, changed, and he became extremely upset. He graciously said that the general conditions of the country warrant that the enemies should be shown that there are no problems inside, and that we are working together in utmost unity, solidarity, harmony, and friendship. If we choose to confront someone who utters a remark out of ignorance or some other motive, then we may forfeit other interests.

That gentlemen, since I wrote and asked him to clarify his point, because his remark was an open insult, tried to keep out of my way until the end of my term in the Majles, which brings me to this point: the imam graciously said you should put this issue to the leadership council. In case of the existence of a legal recourse, you should omit the pre-agenda speeches, since most of these problems arise in the course of the pre-agenda speeches. [passage omitted]

My point in citing this case, which I am about to tell you, is that the then Majles speaker, our very dear and honourable president, his excellency hojjat-ol eslam valmoslemin, Mr. Hashemi [-Rafsanjani], who constantly monitored the situation with the utmost diligence, insight, and knowledge, with very strong management and sufficient control in handling issues and discussions, and with constant recourse to the guidelines of the leader, and his eminence the imam, may God bless his soul, remarks in that particular session on the existence of a proposal and a legal recourse. In my view, however, it is a very major asset of the system of the Islamic Republic that it possesses an open platform to which the entire world can listen, learning about its decisions. This is a very major asset for the system. Even though one, two, or three individuals may sometimes utter irrelevant remarks or create an obstacle, it is not right to deprive the system of such a major asset. The leadership council was convinced at that session, but he was asked [changes thought] well, it is not just that anyone should be able to exploit this platform by attacking any innocent or guilty individual, when that individual is deprived of the means of defence. It was decided that if an insult or a defamatory remark was levelled at anyone, that individual should be given the chance to defend himself until that very deputy should come forward and, if in the wrong, retract his remarks. A delegation was formed to that end, and as the deputies are aware, in practice it faced many issues. We did not manage, however, to persuade a deputy who had uttered an irrelevant remark on the platform—which was proven, and he himself knew it but had try to justify it by saying it was made under emotional stress, or this or that—to come to this very platform and say: I am sorry; I made a mistake.

Islamic teaching instructs that if a person deceived by Satan then repents and asks for forgiveness, and if, God forbid, it concerns the rights of the people, then that person should respect those rights. Therefore, this sacred platform, which has been put at their disposal at such high price, should be respected. Apparently, the best interpretation was given by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i who said: You should behave so conditions do not arise in which you find yourself going one way and the nation going another, and then realize that your followers are no longer supporting you.

Dear esteemed deputies, if I mention something, I am not alien to the affairs of the Majles. Do not fence yourselves off with written reports. Do not fence yourselves off with your own private gatherings' assumptions. You are more worthy and able to see what is happening in society. You should be more aware of what is going on in the hearts of society and should make your decisions according to reality. You, more than any others, are aware that the foundations of the honored position of the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on the supreme jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]. This nation cannot at any cost tolerate that a person, regardless of his status, be it in the Majles, in a university, in a magazine, in a newspaper, or in any other place, confront the issue of the velayat.

Honourable deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles, you are the lawmakers. You work for the intersts of the system. You compose rules and regulations for society. Rules and regulations are there to safeguard the interests of society. They are to safeguard interests of the system. When law progresses through its legal procedure, it should be respected by every person above all else.

Regarding that point, if the laws which should be respected have followed their legal procedures and are in conformance with the Constitution—which says that rules and regulations pertaining to the Assembly of Experts should be approved by the experts themselves—are not according to my taste or your tastes, then it is not appropriate that we question a whole nation or a system.

The Islamic system does not belong to me or you; it belongs to the people of this country. It belongs to those who have given up martyrs. It belongs to those who have given up captives. It belongs to the deprived. The system belongs to present and future generations. Today, Islam has prevailed in this land, after the passage of many centuries. How can I question such a respected value by asking why it is not me or why it is not you? Who are you and who am I? Why do we not pay more attention? We should abandon egotism. If anything has been achieved by our system, it has been achieved collectively. What is the focus of such collectiveness? Which string will connect all the worry beads? If you weaken the main string, [changes thought] you, of course, are not able to break that string. The major world powers cannot break it, let alone you.

What objective can justify the undermining of such a foundation? The issue of the Guardianship of the Jurisconsult; the issue of the Assembly of Experts; the decisions of the Assembly of Experts; the elections which were so meticulously conducted, and in which our people came to take part in such large numbers [changes thought] let me not utter remarks which may point to specific people in the Majles. If you think fairly, if you respect the elections in their proper context under their own terms and conditions with due regard to those who stood as candidates, then in my view the people of the country have paid enough attention to that issue. This round of elections was held in the best possible way. Everything was open, clear, and well known. [passage omitted]

Overall, reports indicate that the elections were held in the most correct and the best possible manner. Very desirable results were obtained. Yet, can one raise questions as to why and how? In my view, such egotism creates problems. Let us, God willing, pay more attention to collective values.

The second topic which could again be seen in the remarks of the exalted leader concerns the recent pressure brought by the occupying al-Quds regime on the dear Palestinians. You all know about it. What does all this mean—the cruel massacre of Black Monday, and the subsequent pressure on and the strengthening of resistance, and handling it at the Security Council; the resulting resolution and its rejection by the occupying regime; the second resolution; and approval by the U.S. Government of massive economic, financial, and military assistance? How long should the dear Palestinian Muslims live under such pressure, resistance, and agony? Why does the world of Islam not pay more attention?

I draw attention to the remark which apparently came from the exalted leader, saying that the Zionists understand no language but that of force. [passage omitted]

Confrontations in Kashmir, meanwhile, and the way the Government of India treats the Muslims, have been the subject of several reminders. It has been said that the consequence of such a confrontation in international policies must not be overlooked. The Government of India must pay full attention. Here I draw the attention of the high-ranking judicial authorities of India to the question of a grand mosque in Kashmir, which has become a matter for dispute. I explicitly say that a place which has been at the disposal of the Muslims for a long period, such as a mosque, cannot be changed into something else and placed at the disposal of others on the pretext of some remarks. It is precisely as if some materialists or idolators came and said that since day one in the history of the Ka'abah it was a house for idols, therefore today the Ka'abah must be returned to the idols. Such remarks cannot be accepted in today's world.

As fpr the Persian Gulf crisis and its ambiguous situation, the Islamic Republic of Iran has the same clear position as originally declared. Iraq must definitely leave Kuwait. Alien forces must withdraw from the region. The security of the region must be provided by regional countries.

Here I must add a point to the effect that such a generalized interpretation is not sufficient. Some of the Arab heads of state must not think that the remark concerning the priority of an Arab project is true. All the miseries and problems stem from that very problem—giving priority to Arabism in their thinking, rather than Islam. It is dear Islam which can gather all the residents of the region and safeguard their interests. Then, the gentleman comes to talk of the Arab security project for the region. Yes, the security project of the region must be in the hands of the residents of the region. Anybody can see that under the present conditions; at least considering the geographic position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the largest share belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Remarks concerning an Arab security project are not practical.

There is another thing to say. Well, some friends ask me how these generalities can help? What can I do? I have my own problems. I cannot name anybody or anything. It is not correct to name a province or a department because their officials will come under question. But I say that such and such a file is at hand, and such and such a number of individuals have been taking bribes, and they are already being put on trial. In the future (the bribes) will be taken from them. [passage omitted]

I pose this question: Why, twelve years after the revolution, are there still individuals who think they must rely on their weapons and trample upon the law? What kind of a place are they really living in? This state of the Islamic Republic of Iran possesses laws. There is accountability. There are systems. We have given job discriptions. For every body, precise job descriptions have been compiled. It is not correct for us to hear that some people still rely on weapons. The judiciary deems it its duty to deal according to the law with anybody who breaks the law, no matter who he may be and what his status may be.

Yazdi Stresses Obedience to Leadership

LD2810130190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The head of the judicial authority, Mr. Yazdi, said this morning at a nationwide gathering of POW's from the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps [IRGC]: The Corps is a great foundation capable of securing its position in the Islamic Republic of Iran. That foundation was established on divine and heavenly ideology after the victory of the Islamic revolution and as the result of the long struggles of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul. With the passage of time, it managed to demonstrate the features of the Islamic system to the world.

In fighting the enemy and the global arrogance, the Corps managed during the imposed war to mobilize popular forces and to achieve final victory in coordination with other armed forces.

According to the report of the central news unit, in another part of his remarks the judicial authority praised the released POW's of the IRGC, and added: Basically, during any war there are martyrdoms and imprisonments, and the combatants of Islam, enjoying a revolutionary spirit, were able to complete the period of their captivity with self-sacrifice and steadfastness. Therefore, it would be appropriate to employ, in the best form, such models of resistance in the future.

In conclusion Mr. Yazdi termed as essential the obedience to the honorable leader and the commander in chief of the armed forces on the part of all strata, especially the military and security forces. He said: Obeying the orders of the leadership is a religious and divine duty.

It is worth mentioning that in the continuation of the seminar, Mr. Reza'i, commander general of the IRGC, praised the brave released POW guards, elaborated on the achievements and the performance of the IRGC during the eight years of the holy defense, and explained the IRGC's future structure.

Karrubi Urges Majles Deputies To Use Caution

LD2810124690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Excerpt] At today's open Majles session, the speaker referred to the eminent leader's recent words of guidance about the position of the Majles in the system and said: The Islamic Republic's system is based on the principle of the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the jurisconsult]. Our correspondent reports:

[Reporter] At this morning's open Majles session, with Mr. Karrubi presiding, the speaker conveyed his greetings on the auspicious birthday anniversary of his holiness Imam Askari - may God's peace be upon him—the 11th imam of the world's Shiites, and went on to refer to the gracious words of the eminent leader. He said: The gracious words of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i were pleasing and informative for all of us. Let me stress that the Islamic Republic's system is based on the velayat-e faqih and the legitimacy of all the organs of the Islamic Republic's system arises from the leader and the velayat-e faqih.

Mr. Karrubi stressed that the wise leadership of his eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds—so entrenched the issues of the velayat-e faqih, marja'iyat [source of authority], and leadership in society that there is no room for doubts, qualms, discussion, or debate. Mr. Karrubi said: I hope and ask that the discussions which take place in this or that corner do not, God forbid, use the sacred word and meaning for settling political scores or for confrontation between factions.

The Majles speaker continued by asking for unity and solidarity between all deputies. He added: I assure the eminent leader that the Majles is obedient to the leader and considers the command of his eminence to be binding; and all deputies obey the leader.

Mr. Karrubi then spoke about the cautionary words of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, in connection with the Majles. He said: We are grateful for his eminence's kindness and sympathy in reminding us of the position of the Majles and of its greatness, and of the fact that it is a place in which the people's hopes are placed. In just the same way, our deceased imam [Khomeyni] repeatedly spoke about the Majles and said such things as: The Majles is an answer to people's prayers, an expression of popular virtue, and an outcome of the blood of martyrs. And whatever is approved by the Majles and endorsed by the Council of Guardians is law, and we must all obey it.

The Majles speaker stressed the position of the Majles as a strong base, next in rank after the leader, for the preservation of the revolution's achievements and noted: The revolution's friends and supporters must take care not to behave in such a way as to weaken the Majles, because a blow against the Majles is undoubtedly a blow against the system, something which cannot be tolerated by the people or the leader.

Mr. Karrubi continued: The eminent leader said it, everyone knows it and I, too, will repeat it: The Majles has freedoms, limitations, and boundaries, and the limits and boundaries are clear, of course. And the Majles is a place which, in accordance with the Constitution, has the right to question and interpellate; investigation and examination are among the rights of the Majles, and it is the right of deputies to say what they like from the podium, within the framework of dear Islam. We, therefore, ask our dear friends to be careful in their choice of words.

The Majles speaker then said: The Majles is at the service of the system, the revolution, and the leader, and just as the eminent leader said, although debates may have taken place they were brotherly debates. And I hope that the dear deputies, the ones who may have said some things, or the deputies in either faction, will reconsider, take care, and amend their words so that from now on we do not say things that arouse the displeasure of the leader or of officials. We must all be careful about our phrases and words, and the great Iranian nation is a great nation which obeys the leader to a man.

During the session, the draft bill for the punishment of economic saboteurs, which was sent back from the Council of Guardians, was discussed and the proposed amendments were approved. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Atomic Energy Chief Says Program Peaceful

BK2910163590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes and only for producing electricity and promoting agriculture, medical treatment, and technology. This was stated by the chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, Munir Ahmad Khan, as he addressed the three-day annual conference of the Association of Muslim Scientists and Engineers, which ended in Detroit yesterday.

He vehemently denied that Pakistan has any atomic weapon or has the intention of producing any. He said we are fully determined to realize the principle of nuclear nonproliferation and a total cut in atomic weapons in the entire world. On the growing need for energy in Pakistan and the existing shortage of resources, the chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission said the only way to solve this problem technically and economically is to promote atomic energy.

Jatoi Congratulates Nation on Election Process

BK2910091290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has congratulated the nation for completing the election process. In a statement in Islamabad, he said the national and provincial assembly election results reflect the confidence of the nation on the Islamic identity and future progress, well-being, and stability of the country. He said the success of the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad and its allies in all four provinces is the outcome of the love of the people for which we are thankful. The prime minisiter said the change in Sindh is the outcome of the distrust created by the terroristic, atrocious, and corrupt politics practised by the former regime. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi expressed distress and anguish over the loss of human lives in the elections. Conveying condolences to the bereaved families, he announced appropriate compensation to them.

Official Rejects Vote-Rigging Allegations

BK2610154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Chief Election Commissioner Justice Naimuddin has said the Election Commission is determined to provide a safe atmosphere for the voters so that they can cast their votes in the provincial assembly elections freely. In an interview to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today, he described as baseless the allegations of rigging in the National Assembly elections, saying that the commission has received no complaints in this regard. However, he said, if any candidate has any complaint regarding the voting, he can file petitions in tribunals in accordance with the clauses of the People's Representation Act. The tribunals will be set up soon after the elections. Candidates can also file their petition at the Election Commission if the complaint falls under Section 103-K of the same act. Justice Naimmuddin added that tribunals for hearing election petitions will be set up after the completion of the election process. The election petitions must be filed within 45 days from the publication of the final election results.

Commissioner Assures Fairness

BK2910090290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Chief Election Commissioner Justice Naimuddin has again rejected the allegations of rigging in the elections. In an interview with Pakistan Press International, he said that the election commission had, by all means, taken complete and comprehensive arrangements so that the electorate could choose their representatives in a free, fair, and peaceful atmosphere. He said this has been confirmed not only by voters, voting agents, candidates, national mass media but foreign observer groups as well. The chief election commissioner assured that the commission will review petitions against any irregularity in a fair manner.

Poll Observers Find No Evidence of Rigging

BK2610160290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Vahit Halefoglu, the leader of the 40-member group of international observers belonging to the National Democratic Institute [NDI], has said his delegation's members are unanimous in their opinions that elections in Pakistan were conducted in a generally free and orderly manner. Addressing a news conference in Karachi this afternoon on the completion of the group's visit to Pakistan, he said his delegation, which comprised members from 17 different countries, cautiously examined several important aspects of the election atmosphere, but it could not find any evidence to substantiate the allegations of irregularities in the voting.

Answering a question about irregularities in vote counting and other allegations, the NDI leader said the delegation could not find any evidence to confirm these allegations. The delegation does not believe that such complaints or problems could have significantly altered the outcome of elections. Vahit said his delegation members visited polling stations in about 30 constituencies and witnessed voting and vote counting process. He added that the NDI delegation was impressed with the way the polling agents representing the contesting parties cooperated with each other. He said the purpose of his delegation's visit was to express the international community's support for free and fair elections and the democratic process in Pakistan.

Bhutto Considers Demanding New Elections

BK2710005990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1950 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Oct 26 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reiterating that Wednesday's elections were "massively rigged," said Friday her party might demand new elections.

Addressing a press conference on her first post-election visit to the Punjab capital where her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) suffered a shock defeat at the hands of the pro-government Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), she said the party high command was considering various options including fresh polls.

"We will take a decision" at a meeting due here Saturday of top PDA leaders, she said, adding that a protest movement was also under consideration.

On a report by an international team of observers from the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) that serious problems had affected the polls but the problems did not significantly alter the outcome of elections, she said "our reaction will be given later."

Howevr, she said the NDI team did not visit many polling stations and alleged that rigging took place after the observers had left constituencies.

Spelling out the alleged methods used she said presiding officers did not issue certificates on vote counts in about 40 to 50 constituencies.

Many presiding officers communicated their polling station results to the district administration chiefs and not to the officers appointed by the election commission, she claimed.

She also alleged national identity cards, necessary to obtain ballot papers, were taken from many people on the pretext of granting fuel permits and were not returned until after the elections.

Asked if the PDA would boycott the national assembly, she said the central executive would examine the question.

She said some major political figures like pro-Moscow Abdul Wali Khan and Moslem fundamentalist Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman "were not allowed to win because they could create problem in the house."

Asked why her party was participating in Saturday's provincial assembly elections she said "we do not want them to go unopposed."

The decision not to boycott would also help the PDA, she said as either her rivals would be more cautious or if the rigging was as blatant "as the national polls, they will be further exposed."

"We have directed our polling agents to watch the movement of the presiding officers after the counting" in the provincial polls, she said.

Earlier PDA Secretary General Khurshi Ahmed Kasuri released a list of 24 constituencies where votes polled were much higher than in 1988 when Ms. Bhutto won.

The difference ranged from 6,0000 to 43,000 votes, he said adding that this happened where the IJI candidates were declared the winners. In areas where PDA nominees won figures were either the same as in 1988 or even lower, Mr. Kasuri said.

Government, MQM Agree To End Sindh Violence

BK2610163790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali has said that the people of Sindh are brave enough to face any attempt against the integrity of Pakistan. He made these observations while talking to newsmen at the residence of Altaf Hussain, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] leader, in Karachi today. He assured the people that all arrangements have been made to provide them security both during and after the elections.

About his discussions with Altaf Hussain, Jam Sadiq Ali said they have entered into an agreement to work together for removing misunderstandings between various sections of the population in the province created by the former Pakistan People's Party government.

The MQM chief, Altaf Hussain, has said his party will continue to work for durable peace and the promotion of brotherhood and understanding among various sections of the population living in Sindh. He said his party will support the government which will work for the security of the country and the welfare of the poor and downtrodden people.

Jatoi Reiterates Support for Kashmiri People

BK2710021790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has said the denial of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people has been the major cause of friction in the region, and lasting peace will come to the region only after Kashmiri people have exercised their right to self-determination. In a message on the eve of the 43d anniversary of Indian military intervention in Kashmir, the prime minister said India's decision to use force in Kashmir was wrong 43 years ago and continues to remain wrong today. He said the Kashmiri people have (?proven) their resolve to wrest their right of self-determination irrespective of oppression and atrocities committed against them. He paid tributes to all shahids [martyrs] in occupied Kashmir and the men, women and the children who have stoood up against injustice. The prime minister said Pakistan will continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to our Kashmiri brethren.

Provincial Assembly Elections Begin 27 Oct

BK2710054890 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Elections for Punjab, Sindh, North-West Frontier Province and Balochistan provincial assemblies began this morning. Special arrangements have been made to maintain law and order and to conduct the polling in an orderly manner. A total of 3,484 candidates are running the elections for 460 Muslims seats of the four provincial assemblies, whereas 248 candidates are in the contest for 23 seats reserved for minorities in the four provinces. The two alliances—the Islamic Democratic Alliance and the People's Democratic Alliance—several other parties and a number of independent candidates are contesting the elections.

The Election Commission has made special arrangements for immediately announcing provisional results through Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television as it did during National Assembly elections.

Results Show PDA Losses

BK2810014990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The provisional results received so far of the provincial assemblies election show that the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IJI] is winning with an overwhelming majority in Punjab. These results indicate that the IJI has won 170 seats out of 188 and it has received a clear majority in the 240-member Punjab assembly. The results of other parties in the Punjab assembly are the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] seven, Pakistan Democratic Party two, and independents nine.

According to 66 provisional results received so far for the Sindh assembly [100 members total], the PDA has secured 30 seats, Haq Parast group 21, IJI five, and independents 10.

Sixty-five provisional results of the Northwest Frontier Province assembly [80 members total] have been received so far out of which the Awami National Party has secured 20 seats, the IJI 29, the PDA six, and independents 10.

Thirty-two provisional results of the Baluchistan assembly [40 members total] have been received so far out of which Jamhoori Watan Party has secured eight, IJI seven, PDA one, Pakistan National Party four, Baluchistan National Movement two, Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami party two, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam Fazlur Rahman group four and independents four.

IJI Nears 'Landslide'

BK2810040290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Unofficial results of the provincial assemblies polls available so far show that the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Islamic Democratic Alliance, IJI] is heading for a landslide victory in the Punjab. IJI has captured 196 seats out of 222 constituencies, unofficial results for which have so far been announced. It has already gained a clear majority in the 240-seat house in the Punjab assembly. The position of other parties in the provincial assembly of Punjab so far is: PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] 11, PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party] two and independents 13 seats.

In Sindh assembly, the PDA had captured 38 seats out of 81, according to unofficial results so far announced. The Haq Parast group has obtained 25, IJI five, independents 12 seats.

Unofficial results for 70 seats from the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] assembly have so far been received. Of them, ANP [Awami National Party] has bagged 21 seats, IJI 32, PDA six, and independents 11 seats.

Unofficials results for 36 seats from the Balochistan Assembly has so far been received. Of them, Jamhoori Watan Party [JWP] has captured eight seats, while IJI has got seven, PDA two, PNP [Pakistan National Party] five, BMN [Balochistan National Movement] two, Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami party three, JUI [Jamiat-i- Ulema-i-Islam] Fazlur Rahman group five and independents four seats. [passage omitted]

Several important political figures have been returned to the provincial assemblies in the elections held yesterday. In the Punjab, the IJI president, Mian Nawaz Sharif; the caretaker chief minister, Mr. Ghulam Hyder Wyne; and Malik Ghulam Musatafa Khar—independent, have won. (Sardar Machua Khan Barokat), a former provincial minister, has succeeded in two constituencies. A front line leader of the People's Democratic Alliance, Mr. Hanif Ramey lost to an IJI candidate [former President Ziaul Haq's son Anawarul Haq] in Lahore-five. In Sindh, a former chief minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah defeated the IJI candidate Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, also a former chief minister. In the NWFP, Begum Nasim Wali Khan of the ANP, the caretaker chief minister Khan Mir Afzal Khan, a former chief minister Mr. Fazle Haq, and another former chief minister Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao have returned. The Baluchistan chief minister, Sardar Noor Humayun Khan Marri, has won the provincial assembly seat on the JWP ticket.

Bhutto Ex-Minister, PPP Activists Arrested

BK2710133190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Oct 90 p 1, 6

[From Dastgir Bhatti]

[Text] Hyderabad, Oct. 26—Shahnawaz Junejo, ex-Minister in the ousted Bhutto Cabinet, was arrested along with over 100 PPP [Pakistan People's Party] office-bearers and supporters from their respective residences early Friday [26 October] morning.

According to reports reaching here from Tando Adam city of Sanghar district, the SDM [Sub-Divisional Magistrate] and DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police] Shahdadpur accompanied by a heavy police force raided the village of Shahnawaz Junejo in the early hours of Friday morning and arrested him along with 70 other persons, including his sons, servants and PPP workers. The police earlier allegedly opened indiscriminate firing and the bullets pierced through a number of cattle heads mainly buffaloes.

Shahnawaz Junejo had contested the recent National Assembly polls against the caretaker Chief Minister's son Jam Mashooq Ali, who had been declared winner according to the unofficial results. The former Minister's three sons were arrested before the elections of the National Assembly.

In another raid that was conducted by the SHO [Station House Officer] Tando Adam, P.S. [Police Station] the residence of Fida Hussain Dero in village Mulla Makhan, was allegedly ransacked by the police and over a dozen persons were picked up. Fida Hussain Dero, who had gone underground a week ago, was contesting on the PS-67, against Jam Sadiq Ali. In the absence of the above PPP candidate his relatives and supporters were arrested.

In yet another raid on village Faqir Shoro in Sanghar District, the CIA [Crime Investigation Agency] Inspector of the area arrested 20 PPP workers. The police besieged the village to nab Mukhtar Shoro, the President PPP Tando Adam tehsil [Revenue District]. The brothers and relatives of the PPP leader were picked up.

Meanwhile, the main PPP office in Tando Adam city was closed down after the authorities arrested the PPP workers and polling agents engaged in the preparation of lists and other documents required for the polls. The police it is alleged, confiscated all the documents and 50 vehicles parked outside the office.

Almost similar reports are pouring in from different parts of Sindh. According to Syed Qaim Ali Shah, the PPP President Sindh, more than 500 workers have already been jailed in Nawabshah and Khairpur district.

Talking to THE MUSLIM on telephone the former Sindh Chief Minister who was also a candidate for a provincial seat from Khairpur, informed that Gorchani and Jalbani villages in his constituency were raided by the police early this morning and over a dozen workers of his party were nabbed for no offence of theirs.

When asked whether his party would be in a position to form the provincial government in Sindh the former Chief Minister said that the PPP had over 75 per cent members in the dissolved Sindh Assembly and he expected favourable results on Oct 27 provided what he called the reign of terror let loose by the caretaker Chier Minister was stopped by the Chief Election Commissioner [CEC], who according to Mr. Shah had already been informed about the atrocities and gross irregularities being committed by the government.

He said that a PPP candidate from Dau, Pir Mazzharul Haq and an ex-MPA Naban Khan Lund were arrested seven times under false charges, thrice they were released by the High Court and yet they were still languishing in the jail, he wondered.

Qaim Ali Shah has called upon the CEC to ensure protection to the electorate so that they could freely exercise their right of franchise in the provincial polls. He also called upon the CEC to order deployment of the troops in the sensitive areas where violence was anticipated.

Poll Violence Deaths; Jatoi's Son Attacked

BK2710165990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Oct 90

[All figures as heard]

[Text] According to the latest reports, 23 people were killed in various incidents of violence on the day of the elections to the provincial assemblies. Thirteen were reported killed in Punjab—six in Gujrat, one in Mianwali, three in Shekupura, two in Sialkot, and one in Rahimyar Khan. Three people are reported to have been killed in Sindh—five in Jacobabad, one each in Khairpur and Sukkur. Two people, one each in Charsadda and Mansehra, are reported to have been killed in the Northwest Frontiner Province. In Balochistan, one person was killed in Pishin District. Of the 23 killed in these incidents, 20 belong to Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad and three to other parties.

Law enforcement agencies have foiled an attempt to mar the election process and have arrested several miscreants. This was stated by the Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Asif Nawaz, in Karachi today. A routine Army patrol intercepted a bus and took into custody a passenger who was in possession of arms and ammunition. Upon interrogation, he made shocking revelations about the criminal activities of a miscreant group in Karachi and he identified several other individuals who were arrested. They admitted to being involved in various violent incidents. This group allegedly hatched a scheme to disrupt peace by indulging in indiscriminate firing and abducting rival group members. Investigations continue.

An assassination attempt was made on Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi, Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's eldest son and the newly elected member of the National Assembly Constituency NA-107 Nawabshah, at about 1130 [0630 GMT] this morning at Nawabshah polling station number 67 near Kotrokhan (?Rail). There was a premeditated plan. Armed men hiding in fields started shooting toward the left when Murtaza Khan Jatoi, who, along with the provincial assembly candidate, Ahmad Ali Jalwani, and his other companions, was 800 meters away from the voting station.

They started shooting at the first car in Murtaza Jatoi's convoy, thinking that Murtaza Khan was in that car, smashing the glass in the left side of the car. The second Pajero vehicle, in which Murtaza Khan was traveling with his companions, was also fired upon, and the windshield was damaged. All the occupants took cover under the seats and reached the nearby voting station driving at great speed. Six bullets hit the windshield and the sides of the Pajero in which Murtaza Jatoi was traveling.

During this time, rival groups attacked the voting station, injuring a constable named Mir Hassan Marri Baloch, identification number 889, and Rahim Bux Jalbani, the bodyguard of the provincial assembly candidate Ahmad Ali Jalbani.

Murtaza Jatoi and all his companions entered the voting station after their lives were saved. Even after that, firing continued for 20 to 25 minutes until the Senior Superintendent of Police [SSP] of Nawabshah arrived on the scene with his force. The police returned the fire and the rival armed groups tried to run toward the field. The SSP of Nawabshah arrested three of the fleeing armed persons.

Alliance Asks 'Like-Minded' Parties To Join

BK2810041690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Central Executive of the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] met in Lahore yesterday. The cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, presided over the meeting. PDA Secretary General Mian Khurship Mahmud Kasuri told newsmen that the alliance has decided to extend its scope by opening its doors to all like-minded parties.

Bhutto's Husband Returned to Jail

BK2910113590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Oct 90 p 12

[Text] Karachi, Oct 28—MNA [Member of National Assembly]-elect Asif Ali Zardari was sent to the Landhi Borstal Jail after the expiry of his remand period on Sunday.

The husband of the former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, has been given "A class".

Mr. Zardari was produced on Sunday before the Special Court (suppression of terrorist activities) by a DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police] of CIA [Crime Investigation Agency] from where the honourable court sent him to Borstal Jail.

Asif Ali Zardari was arrested by the CIA in the famous Ghulam Unnar case.